THE REAL REASONS THE GIANT LEFT THE NWO!

FULL-COLOR CENTERFOLD: CHRIS BENOIT & WOMAN

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

# MARCH MADNESS

"YOU'RE AN EMBARRASSMENT!"

"YOU'RE OLD NEWS!"

$2.95 U.S. $3.95 CANADA £2.25 U.K.

05

0 71896 00388 8

May 1997

# INTRODUCING THE OFFICIAL ECW HARDCORE HOTLINE

Hosted by the voice of ECW, Joey Styles

**Don't dare call yourself a fan of ECW if you have not called THE OFFICIAL ECW HOTLINE. The ONLY hotline for HARDCORE fans!**

RECEIVE A FREE ECW MERCHANDISE CATALOG

## CALL TODAY

## TO GET THE LATEST ON...

- ECW Match Results
- Wrestling News From Around The World
- Extreme Interviews ... Uncut & Uncensored!
- PLUS ... Test your ECW IQ with the ECW Trivia Test

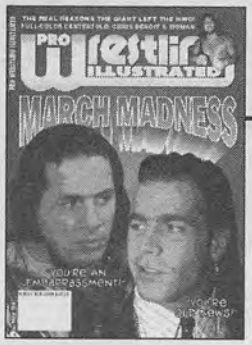
## 1-900-446-4ECW (1-900-446-4329)

**IF YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT ON THE ECW HOTLINE, IT'S NOT TRUE!**

This service is available for both touch-tone and rotary-dialed phones
$1.99 per minute
Kids under 18 need parental permission before calling

4366/09-96

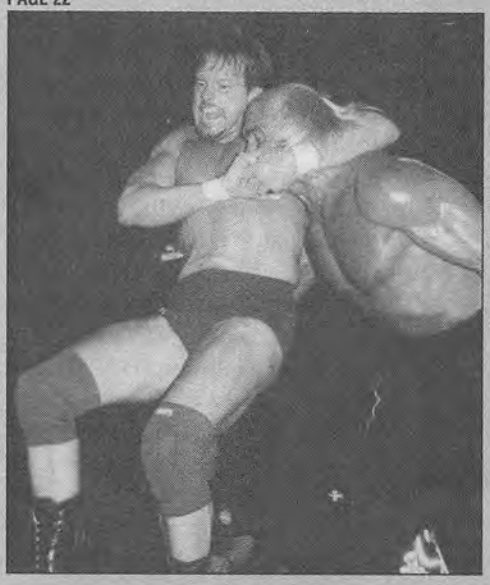
# MAY 1997




COVER DESIGN:
Lisa Witter

PAGE 19

PAGE 22



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE MARCH 25, 1997

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

## FEATURES


**19 HOKUTO WINS WOMEN'S TITLE: CAN WCW SUCCEED WHERE THE WWF FAILED?**
Three years ago, the WWF reinstated its women's division, but it was never much of a division. If WCW wants its Women's title to mean anything, it can't make the same mistakes

**22 PRESS CONFERENCE: RODDY PIPER**
He would have been content to retire after Starrcade, but Hulk Hogan wouldn't let him. Now he's back, but for how long? What are his goals? Will he team with The Giant? He addresses all these issues and more

**24 GOLDUST: THE MIND GAMES ARE OVER— HE'S READY TO FIGHT LIKE A RHODES!**
A year ago, he was the most controversial and despicable figure in wrestling. Now people like Goldust. He still has some Dustin left in him after all

**28 GIANT'S RETURN TO WCW: WAS IT MONEY OR PRIDE?**
Sure, The Giant wanted that title shot he earned by winning the World War III battle royal, but we've heard that someone very important offered him a big pile of cash to make the jump

**32 MARCH MADNESS! "YOU'RE AN EMBARRASSMENT!" "YOU'RE OLD NEWS!"**
We're sick of this vicious war of words between Bret Hart and Shawn Michaels. It's time to fight. This could be 1997's Feud of the Year


## DEPARTMENTS


**4 BETWEEN FALLS**
Money Makes The Man; "Stinger" Has Reasons; Is WCW Number One?

**6 RINGSIDE with Bill Apter**
Want plenty of news and gossip? You'll find it here

**12 FROM THE DESK OF ... Stuart M. Saks**
When will boost ECW to world title status?

**14 IN FOCUS by Dave Lenker**
A tale of two Steves

**16 OFF THE TOP ROPE with Brandi Mankiewicz**
Mail call for the self-proclaimed "Queen Of Wrestling"

**35 *PWI* CLOSE-UP: CHRIS BENOIT**
A complete career bio on the "Canadian Crippler"

**40 WWF VS. WCW**
The latest in wrestling's hottest feud

**42 THE STEEL CAGE by Dave Rosenbaum**
Is Sunny becoming a mainstream star?

**44 WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW by Andy Rodriguez**
Could Chris Benoit and Woman be going NWO?

**48 ARENA REPORTS**
Key match results from all over the world

**62 SCOUTING REPORTS**
Strengths and weaknesses of five stars

**64 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
The mat sport's most respected rankings

**66 RATINGS ANALYSIS**
Goldust, The Giant, and DDP jump over to the good side

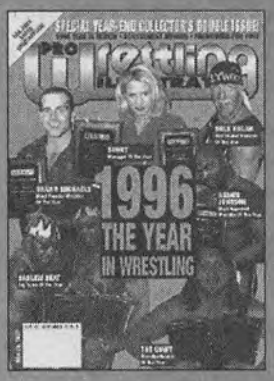
**68 WRESTLING ENQUIRER**
Late-breaking news from the mat sport

**70 HOT SHOT**
Mike Samples and Flash Flanagan on a seesaw

# between falls

**PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED**
welcomes readers' comments on any of our stories or columns.
Send letters to:
**BETWEEN FALLS**
**Box 1148**
**Ft. Washington, PA 19034**
Letters preceded by a ☎ indicate letters left by fans on the *PWI* Hotline (1-900-884-4PWI; see ad elsewhere in this issue).

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FALLOUT




Every year the *PWI* Achievement Awards generate some controversy, and the 1996 awards were no exception. Our readers had quite a bit to say about them.

"How could The Giant be voted Wrestler of the Year?" asked Chris Michaels of Plattsburgh, New York. "He may have won the WCW title, but now he's just a big thug who beats people up. He is not a classic wrestler like Ric Flair or Shawn Michaels."

"The fact that Dan Kroffat (Phil Lafon) and Doug Furnas weren't even among the top runners-up for Tag Team of the Year is surprising," noted Cheryl Abrahms of Bristol, Connecticut. "These men are stars in Japan. When they capture the WWF tag team title this year, your readers will realize their oversight."

"I'm glad you gave Danny Hodge the Editors' Award," said "*PWI* Hotline" caller Steve Simmons of Ames, Iowa. "Hodge was not only a great wrestler and a tough guy, but a good man. He truly deserves such an honor."

**Goldust wasn't hearing many cheers when he batted Shawn Michaels this summer, but now fans are warming up to him. Reader Jeffrey Beau Winner believes he was too quick to judge 'Dust.**

## MONEY MAKES THE MAN

Last year, I wrote a letter ripping Goldust apart ("Dustin To 'Dust," August 1996), but now I look at him a little differently. Looking back, I guess I failed to realize that wrestling is a money-making industry. If he needed to be Goldust to make it big in the WWF, then so be it. While he won some titles in WCW, he has been more successful as Goldust, capturing the Intercontinental title three times. I now regret putting him down. It is just like Hulk Hogan and his new image. If it makes money and you're successful, go with it. As for Dusty Rhodes—who cares what he thinks? Dustin is his own man now. Dusty made his mistakes, and Dustin should be able to make his, too.

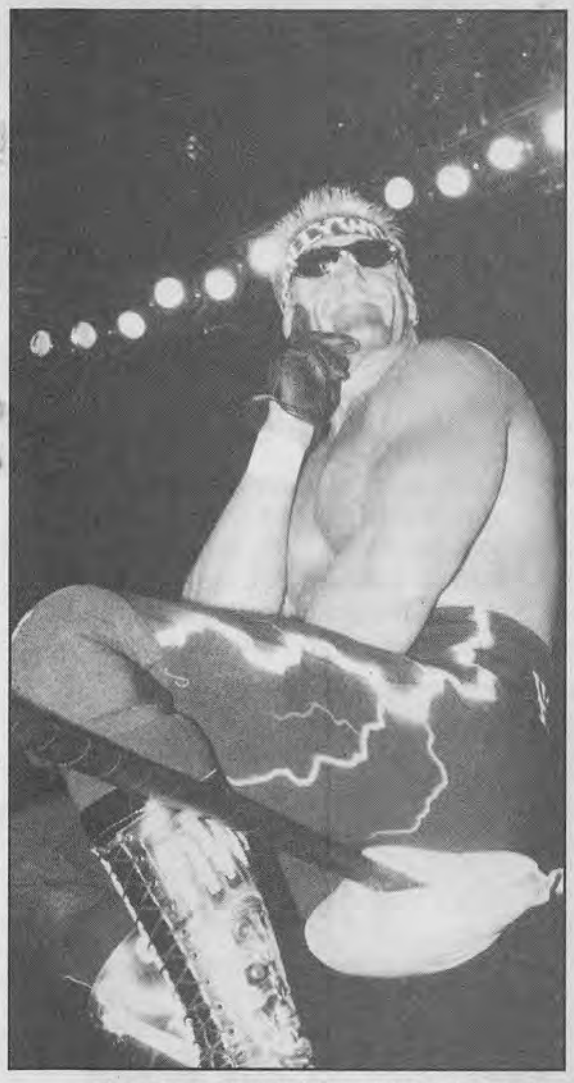
JEFFREY BEAU WINNER
Oxford, NY

## "STINGER" HAS REASONS

WCW needs to look beyond Sting's new demeanor and realize that he's doing two things. First, he's testing the loyalty of WCW wrestlers. He is trying to determine if they really are sorry for betraying him this fall and really still trust him. Second, he's trying to get WCW wrestlers to work together, not against each other.

WCW is giving in to the NWO, and if WCW is not careful, we will no longer see the great wrestling action that only WCW can give us. WCW needs to pay closer attention to Sting. He may be able to save the organization.

JESSICA OSBORN
West Monroe, LA



Hulk Hogan has held the World title during much of his tenure in WCW. Reader Matt Privett thinks the quality of wrestling in WCW has gone down since Hogan arrived.

## IS WCW NUMBER ONE?

The majority of wrestling fans seem to think the WCW talent raids have made it a better promotion. I totally disagree. Back in the 1980s and early-1990s, WCW fans were treated to fantastic World title matches involving the likes of Ric Flair, Rick Steamboat, Sting, Lex Luger, Big Van Vader, and even Rick Rude. Then, in 1994, when WCW started signing "big-name" former WWF wrestlers, those "big names" brought their no-talent selves into a once-proud promotion.

When was the last time you saw a truly great World title match in WCW? There haven't been any since WCW signed Hulk Hogan. They were commonplace before Hulk Hogan came in. Since Hogan's signing and the subsequent signings of former WWF stars like Randy Savage, Big Bubba Rogers, and Hacksaw Duggan, there has not been one good World title match. Soon after they came in, WCW lost real talent like Steve Austin, Brian Pillman, and Marc Mero.

Sure WCW is now starting to bring in talented wrestlers from Mexico and Japan, but let's face it: While Hulk Hogan's around, they will never be allowed to shine in WCW.

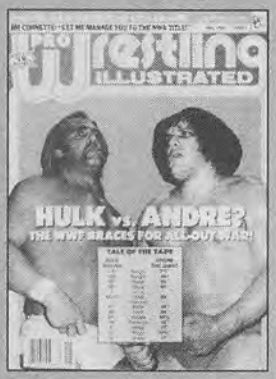
MATT PRIVETT
Charlotte, NC

## STOP WHINING, VINCE

Vince McMahon's America Online interview printed in "Press Conference" (February 1997) shows he doesn't really understand why he is losing the battle to WCW every Monday night.

*(Continued on page 54)*

## 10 YEARS AGO IN PWI




**The cover of the May 1987 issue featured Hulk Hogan and the late Andre the Giant prior to their matchup at WrestleMania III. Though Hogan and Andre had wrestled in 1980, with Andre winning, they later became close friends. But then Andre turned against Hogan and demanded a shot at the WWF title. Their match would be the main event at WrestleMania III, which attracted more than 93,000 people to the Pontiac Silverdome. Hogan won it.**

**Elsewhere in the magazine:** Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, who had recently defeated One Man Gang to win the $50,000 PWI/UWF tournament, was featured in the centerfold ... Jim Cornette was looking to manage a world champion and was accepting applications from talented young wrestlers ... Capt. Lou Albano discussed his past and how he had changed his ways in "Press Conference" ... Dynamite Kid's chances of returning to the ring after undergoing major surgery on his back were discussed.

**Magazine availability:** Sold out.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

**STANLEY WESTON**
Founder

**PUBLISHER**
Stuart M. Saks

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
David Lenker

**SENIOR EDITOR**
Bill Apter

**MANAGING EDITOR**
Brandi Mankiewicz

**ART DIRECTORS**
Kim Branson
Alex Krasnopolsky
Joseph Kalman
Wendy Vetter
Lisa Witter

**PRODUCTION COORDINATOR**
Bob Eddy

**PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES**
Cliff Campo
Ron Frankhouser
Jackie Haag

**SENIOR WRITERS**
David Rosenbaum
Andy Rodriguez
Bryan Ethier
Steve Anderson

**PHOTO EDITOR**
Jason Ross Lavin

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**
Matt Brock
Elizabeth A. Hunter
Craig Peters

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**
Pushpak Naik

**VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING**
David Gerhardt

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT CIRCULATION**
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

**CIRCULATION DIRECTOR**
Robert Nucci

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**
Carol Davis
(215) 643-6385

**CUSTOMER SERVICES**
P.O. Box 96, Dept. CS
Fort Washington, PA 19034

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Vol. 17, No. 5, (ISSN: 1043-7576) is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals rate postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: Pro Wrestling Illustrated, P.O. Box 910, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price $2.95 ($3.95 in Canada, £2.25 in U.K.). Subscription price $32.80 for 13 issues in the U.S., $43.20 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. **FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES:** (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

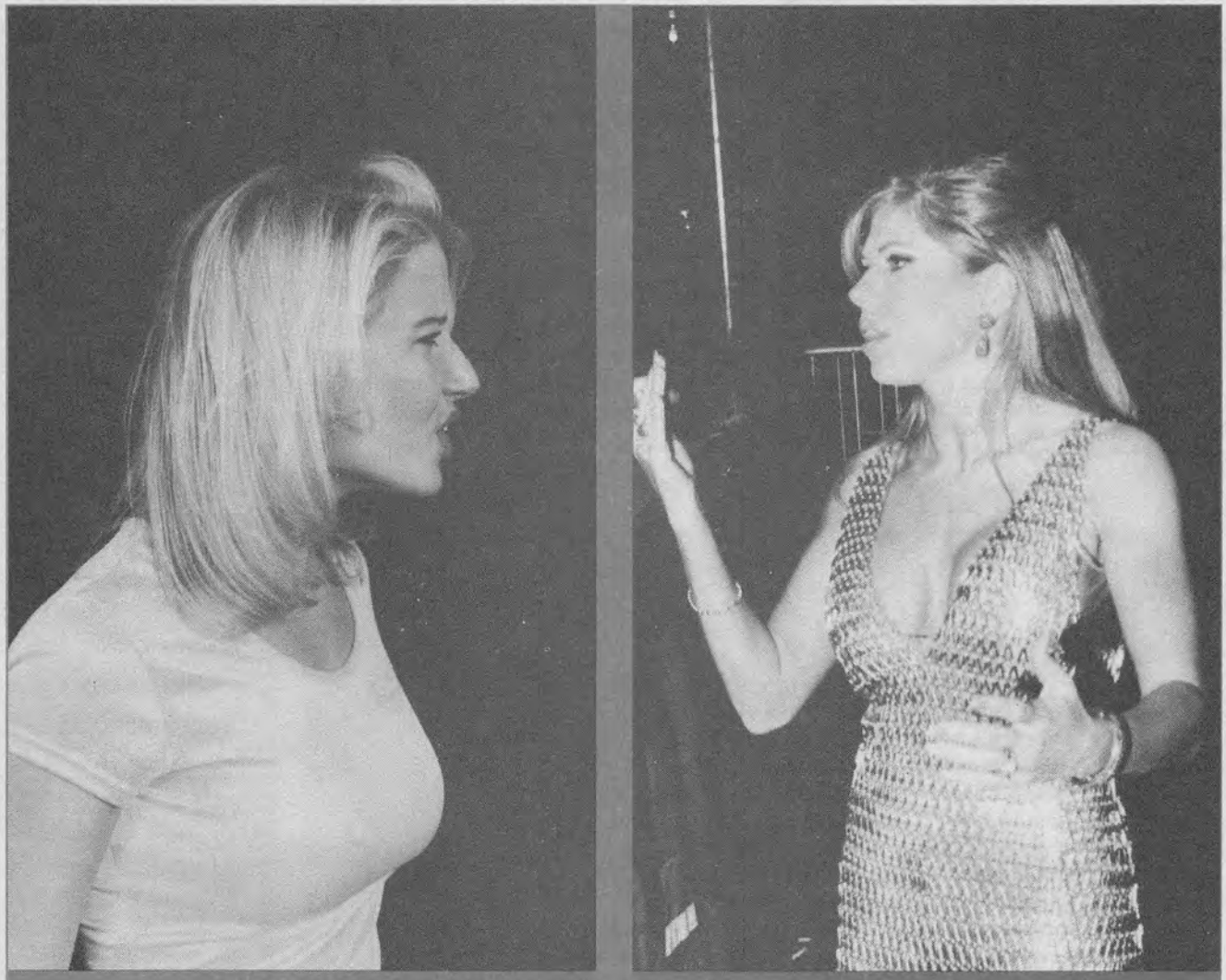
**Printed in U.S.A.**

# RINGSIDE

**With Bill Apter**

**SUNNY** IS FURIOUS! She believes **Marlena** has stolen the spotlight from her and become the woman WWF male fans want to see more of—and I mean that literally!

Marlena shocked (and at the same time delighted) the majority of fans who had packed New York City's Mirage Nightclub for the premiere edition of *Shotgun Saturday Night* with her actions during a match between **Goldust** and **The Sultan**, who was accompanied to the ring by **Mr. Bob Backlund**. Earlier in the evening, Backlund complained quite loudly that Marlena should



Who's the sexiest lady in the WWF? Sunny (above left) thinks that title should be reserved for her, but fans who attended the first edition of *Shotgun Saturday Night* might says it's Marlena (above right).

"wear more clothing, not show cleavage, and not smoke cigars. It is not proper for a man like my Sultan, who has very high and sacred Middle Eastern values, to be subjected to this embarrassing and sacrilegious situation!"

Well, he had *a lot* more to complain about after Sultan got Goldust in his camel clutch. Marlena, aware that her man was in serious trouble, climbed onto the ring apron, and showed more than any woman ever showed at a wrestling match! Backlund went berserk, screaming and finally running into the ring, where he threw his suit jacket over Sultan's eyes. Almost everyone in the club was ecstatic, with the exception of Backlund, Sultan, and (especially) Sunny.

"What a disgusting publicity stunt!" she told me. "How dare she try to unseat me as the queen of the WWF. I won't have this! She is nothing. *Nothing!* I am the sexiest and most intelligent woman in the WWF. Strike that. I'm the sexiest and most intelligent woman in the entire world!"

The Giant is eager to use his devastating choke-slam on Hulk Hogan a few more times. Hogan is suggesting that his former NWO comrade get psychiatric counseling. He believes The Giant has mental problems.

**Hulk Hogan** is concerned about The Giant, or so he says. "**The Giant** needs a shrink, brother Bill. My heart goes out to him," Hogan told me. "I feel so sorry for the big guy. What he's saying about me, about the NWO, it just doesn't make sense, and it really hurt my feelings. I offered him a title shot many times after World War III. He kept telling me that with me holding the belt, it's the same as if he were champion. What a strong bond we had. How can he lie to people, saying I wouldn't give him a title match and that the NWO almost ruined his life? I don't understand it, brother. He must have some serious mental problems. Get that guy on the psychiatrist's couch, now, before he hurts some innocent people like **Eric** [**Bischoff**] or the lovely **Elizabeth**."

"If you believe those lies," Giant responded, "you probably believe him when he tells you he defeated **"Rowdy" Roddy Piper** at Starrcade."

**Tatsumi Fujinami** and **Kengo Kimura** have won the IWGP tag team belts from **Masa Chono** and **Hiroyoshi Tenzan** ... **D-Lo Brown**, who wrestled in Puerto Rico during most of 1996, has joined the **Nation of Domination** in the WWF. The group plans to change his name soon ... **Robert Roma** is wearing the AIWF lightweight belt after a victory over **King Cobra**.

If you're wondering where **Tatanka** is, he just signed for a series of matches with the New York-based Ultimate Championship Wrestling. The new federation has also announced that it has a working agreement with British-owned Hammerlock Wrestling and will be bringing some young British talent to the United States soon, as well as sending some American talent there.

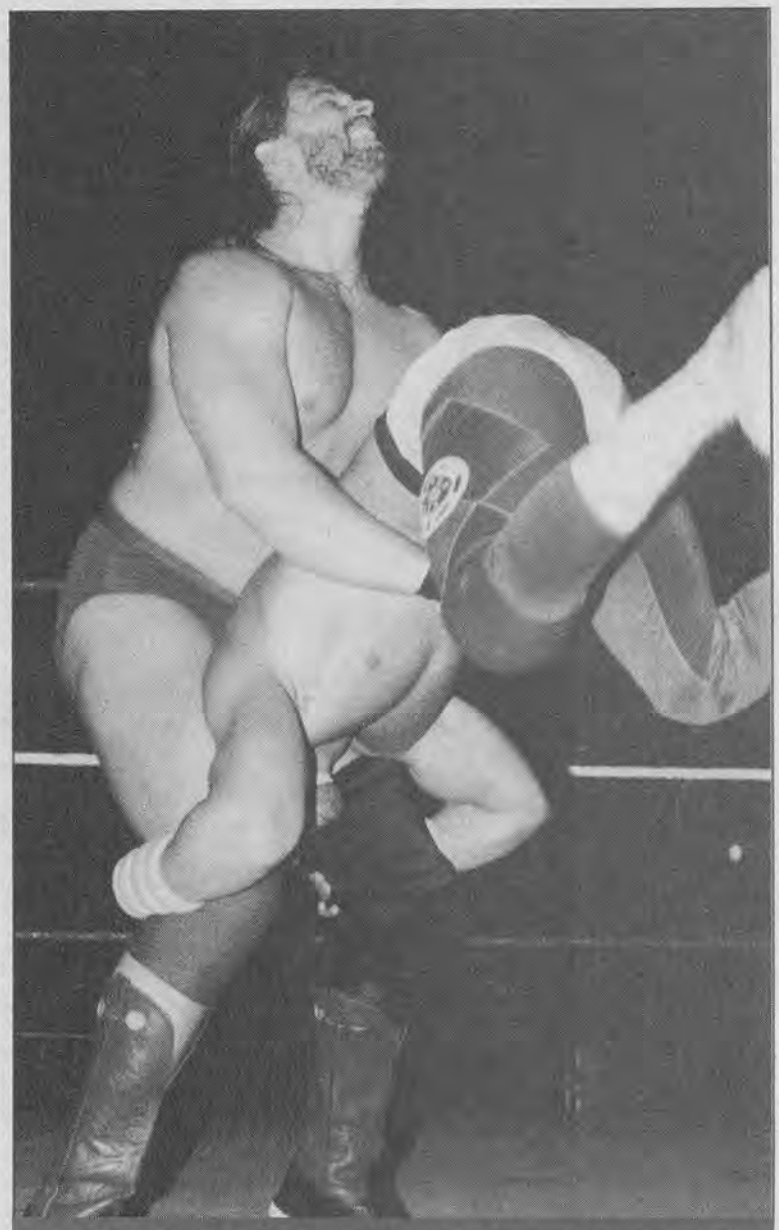
Our trivia question from last issue was this: "Before getting into wrestling, this man worked

as both a disc jockey and a sign-painter. Who was he?" The answer: **Jerry Lawler**. This issue's trivia question: "In 1971, **Dory Funk Jr.** defended the NWA World title several times in Tulsa, Oklahoma. One of those defenses was against **Harley Race**. What now-famous broadcaster was the referee for that match?"

When **Jushin Liger** underwent surgery to have a benign brain tumor removed late last year, many people doubted that he'd ever regain top form again. I thought it'd take him a good six months at least, but just look at him now. He won eight of **Ultimo Dragon's** nine titles (Dragon's WCW cruiserweight belt was not at stake) in a match at the Tokyo Dome in January.

"I feel like my life has taken a dramatic turn for the best," he said. "I had my doubts after the surgery, but now I realize you can beat the odds if you are dedicated to letting nothing stop you from reaching your goals. This is a lesson that all people should learn. Never give in to negative forces, no matter how bad they may seem."

**Jim Ross** is looking for the fans to pat him on the back for "elevating the talent roster of the WWF," as he told me. "Not only should the fans be thankful to me for bringing **Diesel** and **Razor Ramon** back, but they can also thank me for bringing in many other WWF superstars. For example, I saw **Steve Austin** when he was just a rookie in Texas, brought him to WCW, then brought him into the WWF. I brought both **Vader** and **Faarooq** (a.k.a. **Ron Simmons**) to the WWF based upon my past relationships with them."



Justin Bradshaw hasn't had a lot of success in the WWF yet, so he has returned to the CWA in Texas on a part-time basis. He hopes to help manager Gen. Skandor Akbar in his war with Rod Price.

**Justin "Hawk" Bradshaw** has been signed by **Gen. Skandor Akbar** for several matches in Texas' Continental Wrestling Alliance. Akbar hired Bradshaw to eliminate **Rod Price**. "The man is trying to destroy my life," he complained. Price and Bradshaw were tag team partners during the early part of 1996 when both were part of Akbar's **Devastation Inc.**

Price, the current CWA heavyweight champion, says, "I realize that Akbar made many bad decisions in the past that hurt my career. Bradshaw and **Guido Falcone** are making the worst decision of their careers by letting him manage them." ... **Caveman Broda** and **Steve Stryker** have won the Canadian Wrestling Federation tag team belts from **Todd Bullett** and **Bobby Collins** ... USWF heavyweight champion **King Kaluha** is feuding with **Salvatore Sincere** in several East Coast independent organizations.

An ugly altercation took place at our offices in January. We made the mistake of inviting **The Sandman** in for a photo session on the same day that his ex-wife, **Lori Fullington**, and their son, **Tyler**, were scheduled. Lori and Tyler were supposed to arrive about two hours after Sandman, so we figured Sandman would be long gone by the time they got there. We were wrong ... or maybe someone tipped off Lori, who's a close confidante of **Raven**, Sandman's arch-rival.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# COMBINE & SAVE

By taking advantage of our special combination offers, you can have all of the world's leading wrestling magazines delivered to your door and save up to 30% off the regular newsstand price!

## COMBINE & SAVE

| Magazines | ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues | U.S. Price | Canada/ Foreign | TWO-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues | U.S. Price | Canada/ Foreign |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DISCOUNT COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE 25%!)*** | | | | | | |
| ☐ New ☐ Renewal — THE WRESTLER, INSIDE WRESTLING | 26 (13 each title) | ☐ $54.75 | ☐ $75.55 ($119.75 airmail) | 52 (26 each title) | ☐ $109.50 | ☐ $151.10 ($239.50 airmail) |
| **SUPER SAVER COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE 30%!)*** | | | | | | |
| ☐ New ☐ Renewal — PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, THE WRESTLER, INSIDE WRESTLING | 39 (13 each title) | ☐ $79.80 | ☐ $107.10 ($177.30 airmail) | 78 (26 each title) | ☐ $159.60 | ☐ $214.20 ($354.60 airmail) |

☑ **YES!** Please enter the combination subscription I have checked above. I have enclosed a check or money order for payment in full or included my credit card number to charge my purchase.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to LONDON PUBLISHING CO.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration Date: _____ / _____ (MO / YR)

Card No.: _____

Signature: _____

**Send To: LONDON PUBLISHING CO.**
**P.O. Box 910**
**Ft. Washington, PA 19034**

Name _____

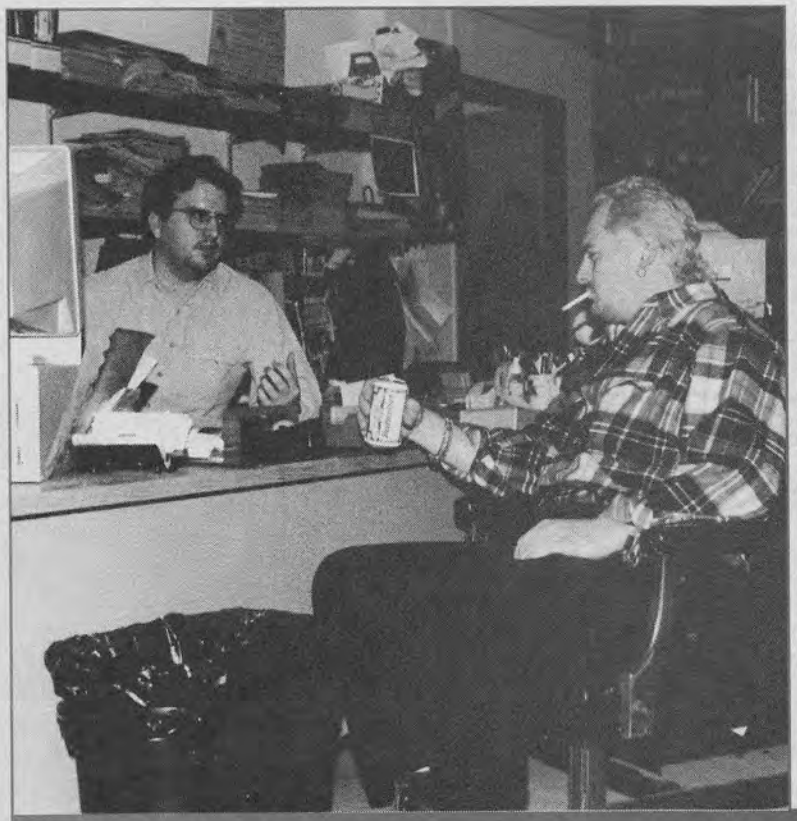
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For orders outside the U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

3808/06-95

(Continued from page 8)



Editor-in-Chief Dave Lenker was conducting an interview with The Sandman at our offices (above) when his ex-wife, Lori Fullington, and son Tyler (background) arrived earlier than expected. Lori's reaction (right) was memorable, to say the least.

Sandman was in the middle of an interview with Editor-in-Chief **Dave Lenker** when Lori, with Tyler right behind her, stormed into the room, attacked Sandman from behind, and began scratching at his eyes with her razor-sharp fingernails. Photo Editor **Jason Lavin**, who was photographing the interview, was able to get a few shots of the attack, which ended only when several other members of our staff pried her off. Seconds later, she grabbed Tyler by the hand and ran off to her car, but not before Tyler kicked his father in the shin. It will be a day none of us on the *PWI* staff will ever forget.

That's all for now. I'll see you at ringside! □

# TAKE US ON!

#1: Big Ben

#2: Ace Stevens

#3: Jaeger van Dorn

#4: Bodybag Jones

#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage

#6: Eric Darkstrom

#7: Nook the Secret Weapon

#8: Derek Craven

#9: El Diablo Sanchez

#10: Tygar Singh

Hurry! Create your own imaginary wrestler and have him face off against any of these IWA veterans—there's no waiting and

★ ★ ★ ***NO ENTRY FEE!*** ★ ★ ★

Battle one, two, or all ten of these fierce competitors. We'll **immediately** put your wrestler in one of our 100+ exciting leagues and send him in the ring with the opponents you chose! You will receive the match results, the official IWA Handbook, and your membership card **right away!** Plus, your wrestler will be entered in our Rookie Brawl, and the winner gets an *engraved plaque!*

The Imaginary Wrestling Association is the original and the best play-by-mail wrestling organization *anywhere*. Matches still cost just **$1.00 each**, the same low price we started with in 1985! And it's the ONLY place where you can win an **ACTUAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING BELT!**

So take us on! Find out if you're tough enough to handle the best! Fill out the coupon below or a copy of it *today* and mail it with $1.00 for each opponent to:

★ ★ ★ **IWA Challenge**
**Box 5275**
**Willowick, Ohio 44095** ★ ★ ★

© 1994 ISC. All Rights Reserved

**WEAR-DOWN HOLDS**

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE AXEHANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

**SET-UP HOLDS**

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. DDT
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE) _____

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT _____ WRESTLER'S WEIGHT _____

SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER _____

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU) _____

**Wear-Down Holds:** Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

**Set-Up Holds:** Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

**Finishing Hold:** Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces

_____
FINISHING HOLD

**Opponents:** Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose $1.00 for each

1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__ 6__ 7__ 8__ 9__ 10__

# FROM THE DESK OF...

## Stuart M. Saks

I've had the conversation with representatives of ECW, with fans of ECW, and with some of the staff members of this magazine who cover ECW. What they say makes an awful lot of sense, and I have spent a lot of time considering and reconsidering their arguments.

What the ECW supporters want to know is this: Will PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED and its sister publications ever recognize ECW's heavyweight title as a *world* title?

Seemingly a yes or no question, the answer is far more complex. It would be very easy to go with the popular flow and give the ECW people just what they want. After all, they've given a great deal to all of us: Exciting competition, fabulous wrestlers, maybe even a little hope that there still are promoters who are motivated to be innovative. According to the mail we receive, stories on ECW that appear in our magazines are always hotly anticipated by both people who have had the opportunity to follow the federation live and on TV and by those who have not. Talk about the possibility of an ECW pay-per-view has been heating up, and an official announcement of a date might well have been made by the time this magazine hit the newsstands.

ECW is very serious about its desire to go national, and needs the cooperation of the wrestling media to expedite the process. In 1994, ECW hosted a National Wrestling Alliance elimination tournament, which drew an international press corps to Philadelphia's ECW Arena. Most people remember the tournament for its bizarre ending: Shane Douglas winning the championship belt, then publicly disavowing any ties to the NWA and its rich history. More significantly, the tournament should be remembered as a coming-out party for ECW. Just days later, with the attention of the world still focused on ECW, the promotion officially changed its name from Eastern Championship Wrestling to *Extreme* Championship Wrestling.

ECW has indeed approached the national level, and against some very severe odds. In order for ECW to fully elevate itself to the superpromotion level, it couldn't be another WWF or WCW; it didn't have the resources to play the same game. It had to do its own thing, which, from a political standpoint, meant knocking the establishment (WWF, WCW, even the feeble remains of the NWA), and from an action standpoint, becoming what amounts to a high-wire act with a bed of nails instead of a net below. While attracting a growing legion of hard-as-granite hardcores, ECW turned off many soft-in-the-belly TV station managers whose support it needed to make itself a national force.

Still, ECW persevered. Through word of mouth, through national magazine coverage, through the sales of videotapes, ECW, without much more than a bingo hall as

**If you watch ECW on TV, you'll hear the federation's top title, which is currently held by Raven, referred to as the ECW World heavyweight title. *PWI* has reasons for not recognizing it as a world championship.**

its home arena, became something of an underground legend. But how to make that next step. Disrupt a WWF pay-per-view? Mission accomplished. Promote a pay-per-view? Looks like that's going to happen. Get world title recognition?

That's in our hands, and, admittedly, we're a little bit stingy in that regard. You see, we've been in this same position before, several times.

Bill Watts' Universal Wrestling Federation was the mid-'80s version of ECW. While nowhere near as extreme in its approach, the UWF was known for its blood-and-guts style. Its talent roster included such names as Steve Williams, Ted DiBiase, Rick Steiner, Sting, and One Man Gang, and was syndicated far beyond its southeastern home base. The pressure to yield to their request for world title recognition was tremendous, but we didn't. By the end of 1987, the UWF was gone, absorbed by Jim Crockett Promotions.

**Terry Gordy was the UWF heavyweight champion in mid-1986, when the promotion was thriving. Like ECW now, it wanted world title recognition. *PWI* also said no back then.**

It was a similar scenario with Texas' World Class Championship Wrestling. For much of the early-'80s, World Class, as part of the NWA, was one of the hottest regions in the country. In 1986, World Class seceded from the NWA and renamed its American heavyweight championship a world title. The promotion believed that its claim was further legitimized by the fact that it was making successful tours in, of all places, the Middle East. We went on referring to their number-one title as the American title, however, and a few years later, World Class ceased operations.

I am not forecasting the same fate for ECW. The mere fact that it was able to secure a PPV after some early resistance from distributors indicates that ECW is capable of compromising, if not yielding. That bodes well for its future. At the same time, however, the majority of *PWI's* editorial board believes as it always has, that the future of pro wrestling as a whole is best served by limiting the number of recognized world titles. Through most of the '60s, '70s, and '80s, we recognized three world titles: WWF, NWA, and AWA. With the demise of the AWA, we took one step closer to the ultimate goal of having one world champion. (Remember World Class' Kerry Von Erich's immortalized quote before his title unification bout with AWA champion Jerry Lawler? "There's only one world, so there can be only one world champion." Makes sense, doesn't it?)

Will we ever give world title status to the ECW championship? After reading this column, you'd probably assume the answer is no. To the contrary, the answer is probably yes. One day, the promotion could very well have an answer to all of our objections—limited TV coverage, a dependence on a narrow, yet rabid fan base, its inability to hold on to its top stars—and become a true international force. The only question that would remain unanswerable at that point is whether ECW was destined to follow the same fate as World Class and the UWF. In the early going of 1997, that question can't be answered by anyone with any degree of certainty. But assuming it's around long enough to answer our other concerns, it could logically be assumed that ECW will be around long into the distant future.

And that its top champion will be given equal billing with that of the WWF and WCW. □

# in focus

By Dave Lenker

## TOO MANY QUESTIONS

Every member of The Four Horsemen seems to have a defined role ... well, almost every member. Ric Flair. He's the undisputed leader, the straw that stirs the drink, if you need a cliche. Flair's the man, one of the greatest wrestlers of all-time, and the reason the Horsemen exist in the first place. Forget about all for one and one for all. That's for The Three Musketeers. With the Horsemen, it's all for Flair.

**Steve McMichael uses a headlock on Lex Luger during one of "Mongo's" rare matches. Dave Lenker wonders why the Horsemen allow McMichael, who is still unproven as a wrestler, to exert so much influence within the group.**

Chris Benoit. He's the next-generation superstar, the guy that has Kevin Sullivan in a tizzy over Woman. One of these days, if Benoit is patient, he could lead the Horsemen into the 21st century.

And Arn Anderson will still be with them, either as an active wrestler or a wise old adviser. Arn's the brains, the enforcer, the steadying force behind the Horsemen. He makes certain all energies are flowing in the proper direction.

Steve McMichael.

As I said ... almost every member.

Ask the other Horsemen and they'll tell you how much McMichael means to the organization. "He's the man," says Flair.

"The perfect choice as a fourth man," Benoit once said.

"The Horsemen wouldn't be the same without 'Mongo,'" Arn insisted.

And Debra McMichael? She's the woman who holds the briefcase.

But what, exactly, does Steve McMichael bring to the Horsemen?

He almost never wrestles. To date, he had wrestled only one singles match as a member of the Horsemen, back in July 1996. He beat Joe Gomez at Bash at the Beach.

He isn't exactly a wrestling genius. The fact of the matter is that Steve McMichael is a former football player-turned-wrestling announcer-turned-Horseman. It's not as if he brings years of wrestling expertise to the Horsemen.

Nor is he much use as an intimidator. Nobody is really afraid of him, no matter how big he might be.

For some reason, however, the other Horsemen always request his input and advice. Which leads to the obvious question: Why?

Maybe McMichael knows something about Flair that the Horsemen don't want anybody else to know. This would make sense if Flair hasn't always been so open about his personal life. Unlikely.

More likely, Steve McMichael is so valued a member of the Horsemen because:

a. There's a lack of decent candidates for Horsemanship these days and, let's face it, The Four Horsemen with three wrestlers are only Three Horsemen.

b. They want to keep him from defecting to the New World Order.

c. Both of the above.

The Horsemen are desperately trying to retain their power in WCW, power that is slowly being sucked away by the NWO. Although McMichael would hardly be a prominent member of the NWO, he would be another member, another trophy for Hogan, Nash, Hall, et al. If there's strength in numbers, the NWO is getting stronger, while The Four Horsemen minus one would be embarrassing.

But it is certainly a sign of how the power has shifted in wrestling that the Horsemen—a group that once consisted of Flair, Arn and Ole Anderson, and Tully Blanchard, then Flair, Arn, Tully, and Lex Luger—has sunk to this: holding on to a member because there's nothing better out there.

Maybe it's finally time to disband the Horsemen for good.

**Stevie Richards executes a superkick (Stevie-kick) on Axl Rotten. He recently severed his ties to Raven and might now be ready to become a *very* big star in ECW.**

## A BOLD (AND SMART) MOVE

It won't go down as one of the most shocking betrayals of all-time. In fact, it wasn't really a betrayal. If you're not a loyal follower of ECW, you might not even know that Stevie Richards and his mentor, Raven, had a falling-out in January. You could see it coming. The two had had many arguments in the previous few months and had almost come to blows a few times.

But now it's official. Richards has even tried to help The Sandman beat Raven for the ECW title. Now I'm not advocating anyone in wrestling turning against his mentor, but where Richards was concerned, it was time. Raven taught him a lot, but the relationship served its purpose.

Though Richards and his sidekick, The Blue Meanie, are considered by many to be just a couple of goofballs, I don't think that's true, at least not in Richards' case.

I've seen a lot of his matches over the last two years, and if I was allowed to participate in the voting for the 1996 *PWI* Achievement Awards, I would have voted for Richards (he finished third) in the Most Improved category. When Raven brought him to ECW, he was tentative and unpolished. Now he's a very good wrestler when he wants to be. That is, when he's not goofing around. His superkick (sorry, Stevie-kick) may be the best this side of Shawn Michaels. In fact, he reminds me a little of Michaels. He has charisma, he's a bit flamboyant, he has that long hair, and he doesn't care whether people approve of his ways. Don't worry, I'm not going to call him the next Shawn Michaels.

All I'm doing is predicting good things for Richards in the next year or two. He and Meanie have put together the Blue World Order, and ECW fans just love it. I'm told by an insider that ECW is having a hard time keeping up with the demand for BWO T-shirts.

It's funny, really. Stevie Richards followed Raven into ECW and basically did whatever he told him to do for several years. Now Richards has plenty of "followers" of his own in all those BWO fanatics.

I'm just waiting for the day when the BWO shows up on *Nitro* to confront the NWO. □

*If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:*

**TOP ROPE**
**Box 1148**
**Ft. Washington, PA 19034**

*Or send e-mail to:*
**TopRopePWI@aol.com**

***(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)***

*THE FIRST FEW editions of* ***Shotgun Saturday Night*** *are in the can. To recap what happened on the first show: Ahmed showed his fire, Cornette showed his drawers, and Marlena showed her two biggest assets to a shocked Sultan and an appalled Bob Backlund.*

*The question I have is why would McMahon start another potential mini-war in the midst of the Monday night wars? Let me see if I understand this: The sometimes-live* ***Raw*** *gets trounced every week in the ratings by the always-live* ***Nitro****, but instead of pumping more life (and money) into building up* ***Raw****, the WWF starts a new live Saturday night show which is only seen in a handful of areas.*

*Maybe "Mr. Saboteur" Jim Ross had something to do with this as well. Don't get me wrong, I like the concept, but I'm baffled by the strategy. I guess that's why I get the big bucks. I'm insightful and intelligent. And don't you forget this, either:*

*I am your champion.*

Dear Brandi:

I want to know where you order or get wrestling clothes made. My friend wants so bad to become a wrestler. He loves wrestling. Where do you get clothes like boots, gloves, masks, tights, shirts, and long leather coats? Plus, I want to know where WWF headquarters is.

STEPHANIE MILLER
Roanoke, VA

**Dear Stephanie:**

**It depends on the look you're going for. Faarooq's old "eggshell hat" look was from Gladiators 'R' Us. Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage shop at the Bandanna Club For Men. Flash Funk went to the Huggy Bear Clothier. The New Diesel and New Razor just went to a Hall and Nash garage sale. As far as the location of the WWF headquarters, I have forwarded your letter to the attention of a high-ranking WWF executive. We obviously have a superstar in the making if he has a need for a knowledgeable fashion consultant such as you.**

Dear Brandi:

People of your ilk never cease to disgust me. It's bimbos like you, Sunny, and Sable who give wrestling a bad name. Go back to the kitchen where you belong, and leave the rest of us alone.

JOSH HARDING
Shell Rock, IA

**Dear Josh:**

**Surely you jest, Josh (or is it surely you josh, Jest?). I have once again pushed a man's buttons. The passion in your letter cannot hide your unbridled lust for the one and only "Queen Of Wrestling." And I don't give wrestling a bad name. I have already lifted this and other columns to a new level. Soon the words wrestling and Brandi will always be uttered in the same breath. Hogan and Piper will not just lust after me, but after my icon status as well. Fall at my feet and worship, for I am your queen. But I digress ...**

**Someone's actually wondering where wrestlers get their outfits. I don't know about these two guys. Probably came up with the ideas for those outfits on their own. Made them themselves, too, I bet.**

Dear Brandi:

I love Marlena. She is so sexy. She is the goddess of the WWF! But why does she have to smoke that stinky cigar? One of my pet peeves is seeing attractive women smoke. Sadly, she'll pay the price down the road.

JOSEPH PIRO
Jersey City, NJ

**Dear Joseph:**

**If one of your pet peeves is seeing attractive women smoke, then you have never seen me in a tight black mini-skirt. But enough about my beautiful bod. I suppose that if Marlena were Marlon, you wouldn't take issue with the cigar-chomping femme fatale. Let Marlena be Marlena, Havanas and all. Besides, her nicotine vice should be the least of her worries. Would you like to spend as much time with Goldust as she does?**

It took me a while to get used to seeing Marlena smoking cigars all the time, but it's just her thing. Let's face it: We're all different. Can't we all just get along?

Dear Brandi:

I am sick of ECW. They think they're so good. Their shows aren't even on TV in certain places. But the WWF and WCW come everywhere. I'm also sick of the AWF, ACW, CWA, PWF, PCW, and USWA. They don't have shows in certain places, either.

RAZIN MAMIN
Porterville, CA

**Dear Razin:**

**You've been in the sun too long. The quality of a promotion is not directly proportionate to the number of stations on which its TV show is available. Just look at the AWF. Thousands of dollars were spent for hundreds of fans to see wrestlers of the past compete in a rounds format that never came close to working. Just because a promotion falls in the woods and you can't hear it, it doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. These independents are a breeding ground for future stars. Just like your brain is a breeding ground for dust, cobwebs, and moss.**

Dear Brandi:

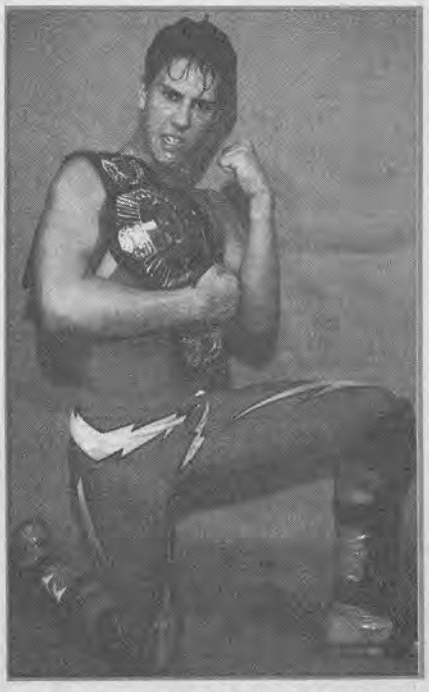
I wrote to you because there must have been a misprint in the February 1997 PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. You said that Six never was a champion. Six once wrestled under the name of Lightning Kid in the GWF and was the light heavyweight champion there.

KENNETH TAYLOR
Navasota, TX

**Dear Kenneth:**

**Okay, so I erred. Yes, under other names, VI (I think he should start spelling it this way) had some success as a WWF tag champ and GWF light heavyweight champ. But what has he done for us lately? Pound-for-pound, he is one of the best wrestlers competing in WCW right now, but he is currently a six of diamonds/clubs/ hearts/spades in the NWO shuffle. He is not the scrubbed-face underdog anymore. He needs to win, emerge, and hold a major federation belt for more than 24 hours.** □

If you don't like certain federations because you can't see their shows, well, is that my fault? Everyone can find a way to see ECW, where you can see Mustafa Saed legdrop someone through a table. There's *always* a way.



This is a shot of Six when he actually had a real wrestling name: Lightning Kid. It was taken in 1991, when he was the GWF light heavyweight champion. Isn't it time this guy won a major title?

# WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
## HASBRO ACTION FIGURES

### WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION HASBRO 4 INCH ACTION FIGURES
**** (ALL MINT IN PACKAGE)****
**$15.00 each**

| | |
|---|---|
| Brutus Beefcake ?1 | Doink |
| Jim Duggan #1 | Jim Duggan #2 |
| Ric Flair | Ted Dibiase #3 |
| Hulk Hogan #4 | Rick Stiener |
| Berserker | Scott Stiener |
| Undertaker #1 | Tatanka #2 |
| Bret "Hitman" Hart #1 | Fatu |
| Repo Man | Samu |
| Papa Shango | Marty Janetty #2 |
| Tatanka #1 | Giant Gonzalez |
| El Matador | Luke Bushwacker #2 |
| Mountie | Butch Bushwacker #2 |

### YELLOW CARDED FIGURES (1993)

| | |
|---|---|
| Owen Hart | $25.00 |
| Crush | $25.00 |
| Kamala | $25.00 |
| Nailz | $25.00 |
| Razor Ramon | $25.00 |

### RED CARDED FIGURES (1994)

| | |
|---|---|
| Lex Lugar | $25.00 |
| Bret Hart #2 | $25.00 |
| Mr. Perfect #2 | $25.00 |
| Undertaker #2 | $25.00 |

### OTHER RARE FIGURES

| | |
|---|---|
| Greg Valentine | $30.00 |
| Sgt. Slaughter | $30.00 |
| Hogan w/Hulkaplex | $30.00 |
| Earthquake | $30.00 |
| Typhoon | $30.00 |
| Randy Savage Macho King | $30.00 |
| Brutus Beefcake #2 (white/black) | $30.00 |
| Jimmy Snuka | $30.00 |

(Any 2 for $50.00)

### TAG TEAM 2 PACKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Legion of Doom | $40.00 Set |
| Bushwackers | $20.00 Set |

(Most other WWF Wrestling Figures Available)

(Call for availability or send $2.00 for catalog)

35 page Toy Catalog Available Containing: Science Fiction, Superhero & Horror Action Figures, and Collectible Toys. $2.00

Shipping is $5.00 Per Total Order

Payment Terms:
Money Orders, Checks or Credit Cards

**Credit Card Orders Call 1-401-946-5720**
**(Monday-Friday 9AM to 5PM EST)**

FAX Orders to 1-401-946-8492
(Orders Shipped Promptly - Money Back Guarantee)

***MAIL TO:***

# FIGURES INC.
**P.O. Box 19482 !**
**Johnston, Rhode Island 02919**

### WWF BEND EM 5 INCH BENDABLE FIGURES
7.00 each or (any 4 for 25.00) (1995)
by Just Toy Co.
***Choose From:***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bret Hart | Diesel | British Bulldog |
| Lex Lugar | 123 Kid | Goldust |
| Razor Ramon | Doink | Shawn Micheals |
| Undertaker | | |

### OFFICIAL WWF BENDEM SUPERSLAM WRESTLING RING
Ring for the 5 inch WWF Bendem figures comes with exclusive Paulbearer figure.
**$25.00 Set**

### CMLL MEXICAN WRESTLING LEAGUE ACTION FIGURES

5 inch figures (1992) by San Francisco Toy
**(set of 3 for 25.00) or $10.00 each**
Choose from: Ultimo Dragon, Vampiro, Rayo de Jalisco

***Also Available:***
**CMLL MEXICAN WRESTLING 18 INCH STUFFED DOLLS**
**$25.00 each or (2 for $40.00)**
Choose from: Pieroth or Tinieblas

### 8 INCH LJN VINCE McMAHON FIGURE
Rare Warehouse find limited!
(1985) by LJN
**$30.00 each**
(Mint in package)

### WRESTLING MAGAZINE GRAB BAG

Wrestling Eye, Wrestling Fury, PWI, Wrestling All Stars etc. (our choice)
1990s (any 4 for $10.00)
1980s (any 4 for $10.00)
1970s (any 4 for $10.00)

### WWF WRESTLEMANIA 3 TRADING CARDS
by Topps (1987) You get a full box of 36 packs of 9 cards per pack.
**$20.00 full box.**

### MERLIN ITALIAN WWF TRADING CARDS

(Rare) 12 packs of 8 cards (96 cards total) for $10.00

### or WWF SUPERSTARS STICKERS BY EURO FLASH
(Made in Italy)
15 packs of 6 stickers (90 stickers total) for 10.00

### CLASSIC WWF 145 CARD BOXED SET
**$10.00 complete set**

### SET OF 6 DIFFERENT WWF COLLECTORS PINS (1991) SET INCLUDES:
Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior, Lod, Big Bossman, Roddy Piper and Bushwackers
**$10.00 set of 6**

### WWF DELUXE 12 INCH BY 18 INCH POSTERBOOKS
by Checkerboard Press.
Set of 2 different for
**$10.00**

### WCW 161 CARD SET
by Impel 1991.
Complete set of cards featuring Flair, Sting, Freebirds, etc.
**$10.00 set**

### WRESTLEMANIA CHAMPIONSHIP BELT
by LJN (1987).
Authentic replica of the official WWF belt. Slide action lever changes picture on front, from WWF Medallion to Hulk Hogan. Fits up to a 31 inch waist. List all champions prior to 1987.
**RARE COLLECTIBLE**
(Comes in a factory bag)
**$20.00 each**

### WWF 3 INCH PVC FIGURES
by Applause (1990)
**$5.00 each**
Choose From: Ultimate Warrior or Big Boss Man

### WCW 2ND SERIES 7 INCH FIGURES
(All Mint in Package) (1995) By Original San Francisco Toy Co.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Randy Savage | $20.00 | Jimmy Hart (red suit) | 20.00 |
| Johnny Badd (silver tights) | 15.00 | Kevin Sullivan (blue tights) | 20.00 |
| Ric Flair (green tights) | 15.00 | Hulk Hogan #2 | 15.00 |
| Sting (pink tights) | 15.00 | Vader #2 | 15.00 |

**TAG TEAMS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nasty Boys (orange outfits) | 25.00 pair |
| Harlem Heat (red outfits) | 25.00 pair |
| Hogan & Sting (black pants) | 25.00 pair |

**WCW Wrestling Ring ..... 40.00**

### WCW HULKSTER RACING 43 MATCHBOX 3 PIECE DIE CAST COLLECTOR SET
**By Matchbox (1995)**

Matchbox size 3 piece set which contains Hulk Hogan racing car, Peterbilt trailer and Richard Petty pit tour truck. (Comes Mint in box.)
**LIMITED EDITION** **$25.00 SET or 2 sets $40.00**

### WCW HULK HOGAN HANDHELD VIDEO GAME
**(1995) By Micro Games**
You control Hulk Hogan in a rescue mission. It has an extra large screen and multi levels of game play (Mint in package) ..... 15.00 each

### WCW MAIN EVENT TRADING CARDS
**By Cardz (1995)**
8 Cards Per Pack
**10 Packs For $10.00**
**Full Box of 36 Packs For $25.00**

### WWF SUPERSTARS 6 INCH ACTION FIGURES
**$15.00 Each or (Set of 6 for $80.00)**
**By Jakks (1996)**
***Choose From:***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Shawn Michaels | Diesel | Bret Hart |
| Undertaker | Razor Ramon | Goldust |

### "THE UNDERTAKER" MAT CAPS & SLAMMERS
**1995 By Westrox**
***Contains:***
1 Undertaker Cap Coffin
2 Slammers (1 Undertaker & 1 Paulbearor)
10 Mat Caps
**$15.00 Set**

### WWF LIFESIZE STANDUPS
(Each Standup is Approximately 6 Feet Tall)
**$30.00 Each**
**By Advanced Graphics (1996)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Shawn Michaels | Undertaker |
| Bret Hart | Diesel |

### DEMOLITION DRINKING GLASS
**(6 Ounce)**
Full color pictures of demolition tag team on the back is a description of the tag team.
**$10.00 Each or 3 for $20.00**

### WWF SUPERSTARS PEN SET
Each pen has a replica autograph along with the wrestlers symbol on the pen cap. Comes in 3 styles Shawn Michaels, Undertaker and Ultimate Warrior
**$10.00 Set of 3 Pens**

### WWF PARTY GOODS
**(1991) By Trend Setters**
All Items Contain: Hulk Hogan, Jake the Snake, and Ultimate Warrior

1) WWF Table Cloth
2) Pack of 16 Large Napkins
3) Pack of 16 Small Napkins
4) WWF Snake Bucket
5) Pack of 8 Party Hats
6) WWF Large Mylar Balloon

**Complete Set for $20.00 All**

### 1985 WWF PRO WRESTLING STARS TRADING CARDS
**By Topps**
Each Pack Contains: 9 picture cards and 1 sticker) **4 Packs for $10.00**

### WARRIOR COMIC BOOK
**By Ultimate Creations (1996)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Issue #1 | 5.00 |
| Issue #2 | 5.00 |

***All Distinctive Character Names and Likenesses Are Trademarks Of Their Copyright Owners.***

# HOKUTO WINS WOMEN'S TITLE

## Can WCW Succeed Where The WWF Failed?

**Once again, a major promotion has reinstituted its women's title. Is it a brief flirtation or an actual attempt by WCW to build a solid foundation for a new division? It all depends upon the building blocks**

**By Steve Anderson**

WHEN FABULOUS MOOLAH was asked to assess the current state of women's wrestling in the U.S. recently, she let out a long sigh. "Every time I think we're about to really make it in the U.S., something always comes up to keep us from reaching our goal," she said. "But, honey, it's gonna happen, and I'm gonna be around to see it!

For nearly three decades, Moolah held the World Women's title, defending the belt worldwide. Though she is almost universally accepted as the greatest woman wrestler of all-time, she

Akira Hokuto was able to rise above Madusa in the finals of the WCW Women's title tournament and claim the title. The toughest fight, though, is still ahead. Hokuto, Madusa, and WCW must make the women's division strong.

Photos by Bill Apter

**Hokuto used a German suplex, Madusa's favorite move, to punish her at Starrcade. We hope to see many rematches between these two, but we also hope to see them wrestle many other women in WCW, too.**

lives with the regret of never having experienced the same level of acceptance by promoters and fans as her male counterparts. Since her retirment, Moolah has spent a great deal of time training women and has kept close tabs on the women's wrestling scene, both in the U.S. and in Japan.

When she sees 42,500 fans an All-Japan Women's card in Japan, she can't help but be optimistic about the potential for that same kind of success in the United States.

"The fans aren't different in Japan," she said, "but the promoters—well, that's a different story."

Moolah was also optimistic in 1993, when the WWF decided to reinstate its World Women's title. Madusa (then Alundra Blayze) wons the belt in a tournament and then publicly committed herself to making the WWF women's division strong again.

Perhaps the WWF should have done the same.

For two years, Madusa dominated a division that really was not a division at all, but more of a "challenger of the month club." Members of the club included Luna Vachon, Bull Nakano, Bertha Faye, and at the end of her WWF tenure, Aja Kong. The "division" basically included the champion and challenger number one, then number two, and so on ...

When Madusa publicly trashed the WWF Women's belt during a live *WCW Monday Nitro* in December 1995, she was criticized for being bitter and showing an utter lack of class. Actually, when you think about it, the WWF had beat her to the punch. The federation had done its part to make the Women's title almost worthless.

Now it's WCW's turn to give the women's division a chance. Late last year, it announced that it would hold a tournament to crown a new World Women's champion. Women wrestlers from all over the world competed in it. Two wrestlers remained at the end.

Madusa faced Japan's Akira Hokuto in the finals at Starrcade. Hokuto stunned the tourney favorite by defeating her for the title with a little help from her manager, Sonny Ono, and her husband, Kensuke Sasaki. Afterward, though, she praised her American counterpart.

"To wrestle Madusa was a great honor for me and a highlight of my career," Hokuto said through an interpreter. "She put up a tremendous fight that was hard to overcome. I am better, of course, but she is very talented. I am honored to be the champion."

We hope there will be a lot more tremendous fights to come.

Secretly, WCW promoters had to be hoping that Madusa would take the gold. After all, she is an established star who has held titles in the U.S. and in Japan. Madusa is a much more marketable star than the talented Hokuto. Madusa may be the key to this new

**Madusa showed incredible athleticism against Hokuto, executing a terrific "Frankensteiner" (right). She also held her own against Hokuto in tight quarters (above). Given a chance, the women's division could match the success of the cruiserweight division.**

division, but if it is to succeed, it must be just that—a legitimate division.

For even if Madusa does one day win the belt, that will not be enough for the women's division to stay above water. In order for WCW to succeed where the WWF failed, it must assemble a quality roster of women wrestlers. Pay-per-views and arena shows must feature more than just the occasional match pitting the champion against a challenger. There should be *at least* 10 or 12 women competing regularly in WCW. The presence of a few stars from New Japan would help. These women should be battling each other for title shots on *Nitro*, *WCW Saturday Night*, arena cards, and on WCW's syndicated programs *every week*.

"Sure I want that belt," Madusa said. "I've been telling the promoters

*(Continued on page 56)*

**Even though she beat Madusa, Hokuto experienced some painful moments at Starrcade. She gave her rival a lot of credit afterward.**

press conference...

**Piper had to prevent Hogan from fleeing to the dressing room during their match at Starrcade. Piper's not leaving WCW now that he has a clean win over Hogan to his credit. Their feud, which stretches back to the 1980s in the WWF, may be far from over.**

# RODDY PIPER

*NO ONE EXPECTED Roddy Piper to make an appearance at Halloween Havoc '96. Certainly not Hulk Hogan. But doing the unexpected has been Piper's trademark since he started his storied wrestling career.*

*Since the mid-1980s, Piper had been known as a WWF wrestler. He took long sabbaticals from the promotion, but he'd inevitably return in some capacity. Several times he appeared as a guest referee. During his latest stint, he was the federation's interim president.*

*But Piper knew he was no administrator. This hands-on president decided to dole out some rulings via his fists. Many wrestlers felt the wrath, including Goldust. But when Gorilla Monsoon returned to the presidency, Piper retreated into semi-retirement, and many awaited his next move.*

*It came in WCW. He asked WCW officials for five minutes with Hogan, the World champion. He had some things to say to Hogan, and Hogan had some things to say to him. Never one to back down from anyone, Piper decided to stick around in WCW a little longer.*

*The "War To Settle The Score II" or "Battle Of The Icons," as it could have been called, finally happened at Starrcade. Piper beat Hogan with a sleeperhold in a non-title bout. Content with victory, Piper later announced his re-retirement. Hogan would have none of that, so he and his NWO cronies viciously attacked the "Rowdy Scot."*

*Once again, Piper's next move is a question mark. Will he hang around for a while? Will he team with The Giant? Senior Writer Steve Anderson and Contributing Editors Liz Hunter and Matt Brock sat down with Piper to discuss these subjects and more.*

**STEVE ANDERSON:** The question on everyone's mind right now is what's next for Roddy Piper?

**RODDY PIPER: Yeah, I guess that's what everybody wants to know. I never backed down from a fight in my life. I was content to hang it up after Starrcade, but Hogan won't let it go. So neither will I.**

**LIZ HUNTER:** So could we possibly see *another* "War To Settle The Score"?

**PIPER: I think we will, Liz. I can't leave wrestling like this. I don't want the last image all the fans have of Roddy Piper to be of me in an ambulance. The NWO will never finish me off. I coulda fought those guys the day after they attacked me if I had to. I want Hogan to pay some more. As far as I'm concerned, this icon thing is out the window. I want him to admit that he has never beat me and that I beat him fair and square at Starrcade.**

**"I can't leave wrestling like this. I don't want the last image all the fans have of Roddy Piper to be of me in an ambulance. The NWO will never finish me off."**

**MATT BROCK:** But that's a pretty tall order, don't you think?

**PIPER: You're right, Matt. Hogan has been in a state of denial for too long. He tried to wipe out his past with this new attitude of his. But if anyone can do it, it's old "Hot Rod."**

**ANDERSON:** There were a few rumors going around that you came to WCW to join the NWO. Was that ever a consideration?

**PIPER: What do you think? I have no interest in aligning myself with Hulk Hogan and his band of merry men. Maybe there was a time when I would have gotten off on a concept like that, but not now. I'm a little bit older and wiser than I used to be. You can have your Four Horsemen and Dungeon of Doom and NWO. I'm just me. When you sign a contract to fight Roddy Piper, you're gonna fight Roddy Piper, not me and a bunch of goons.**

**ANDERSON:** So why *did* you come to WCW in the first place?

**PIPER: For months, I sat there watching Hogan rewrite wrestling history. He wanted to take his past and completely erase it. Well, he forgot about one part of his past. A very large part of his history. That's me. We might have fought in front of big crowds. We might have bled and sweated, but we didn't settle nothin'.**

**HUNTER:** You have said in the past that you are not a part of WCW and you have no interest in their war with the NWO. Has your mind been changed by recent events?

**PIPER: I don't know where I stand with that right now. My fight with Hogan is just that—my fight. I ain't concerned about his agenda to take over wrestling. I just want him. WCW and the NWO can stay home for all I care. I just want to knock some sense into him.**

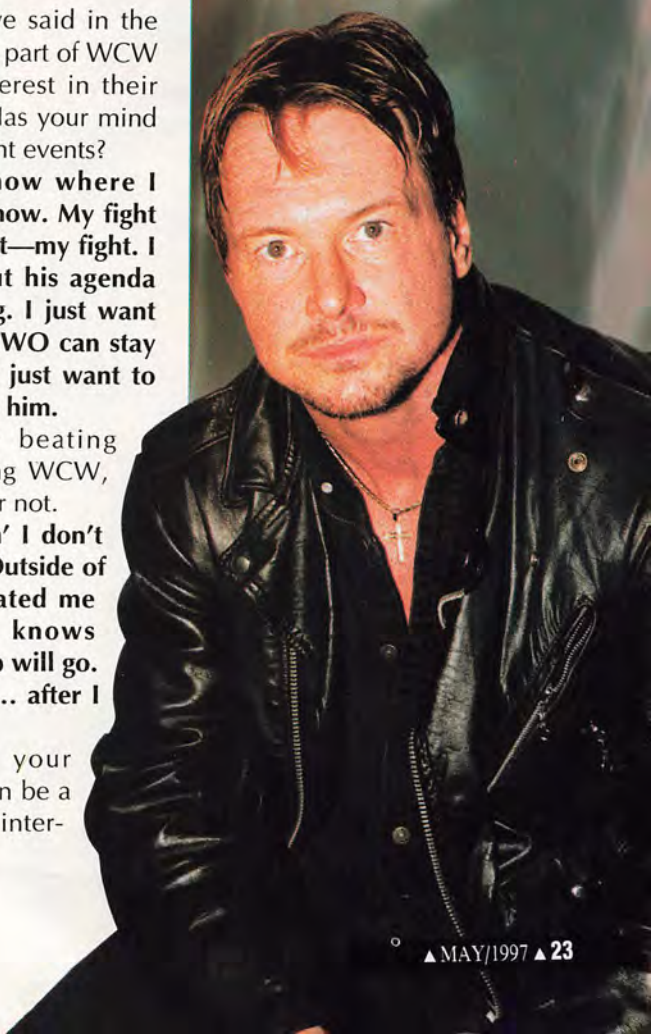
**BROCK:** But by beating Hogan, you're helping WCW, whether you want to or not.

**PIPER: I ain't sayin' I don't want to help WCW. Outside of Bischoff, they've treated me pretty well. Who knows where our relationship will go. I'll just wait and see ... after I take care of Hogan.**

**ANDERSON:** Will your next match with Hogan be a title match? Are you interested in holding

*(Continued on page 60)*

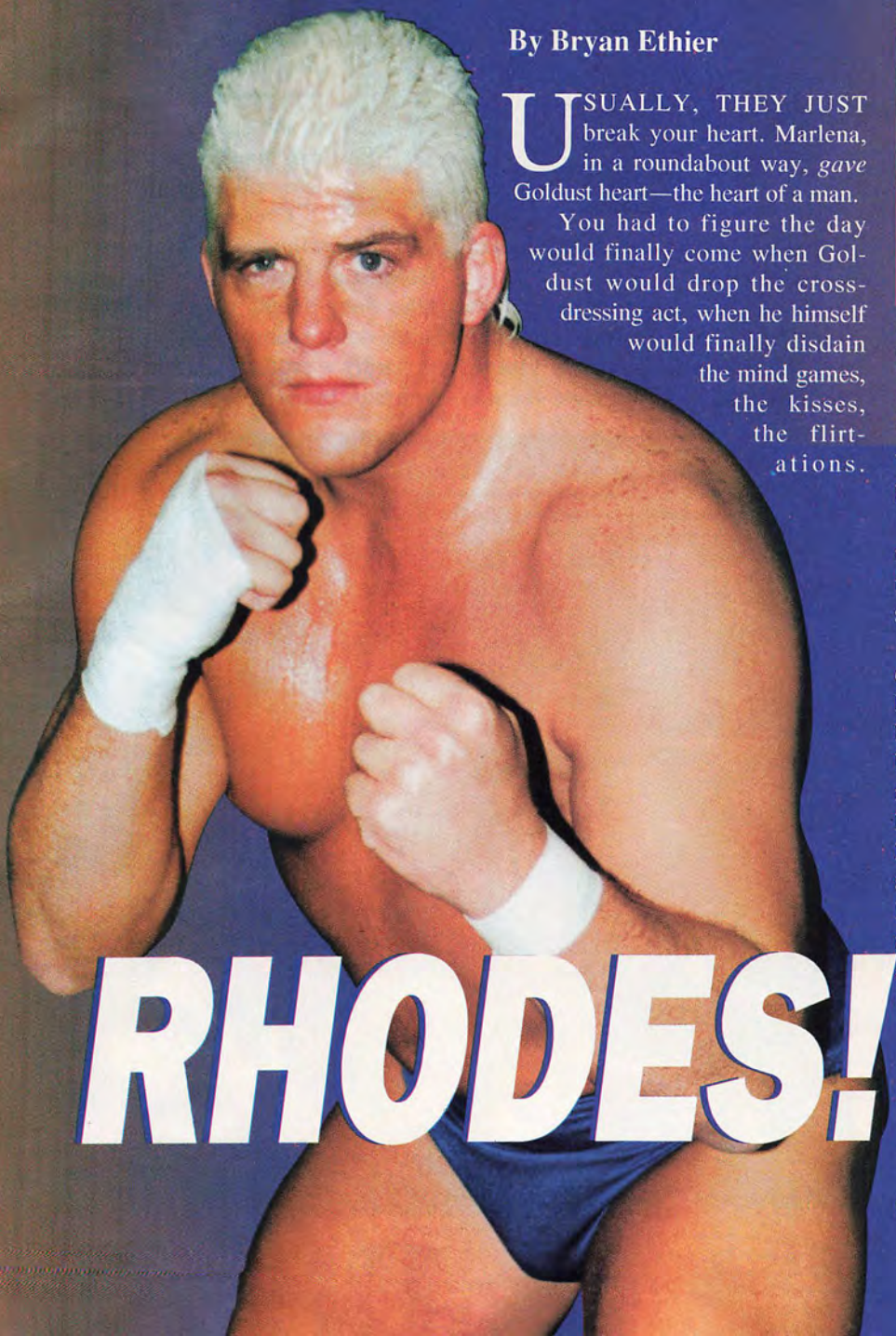
**Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.**



# GOLDUST:

# THE MIND GAMES ARE OVER–HE'S READY TO FIGHT LIKE A

# Goldust a fan favorite? Not exactly. He's still the most bizarre star in the WWF, but little by little, he seems to be turning back into Dustin Rhodes!



# RHODES!

By Bryan Ethier

USUALLY, THEY JUST break your heart. Marlena, in a roundabout way, *gave* Goldust heart—the heart of a man. You had to figure the day would finally come when Goldust would drop the cross-dressing act, when he himself would finally disdain the mind games, the kisses, the flirtations. When he would finally show who the boss in their relationship really was.

Goldust wasn't playing any mind games when he wrestled Steve Austin at In Your House XII. He still wore the ridiculous outfit, but we saw a little more of Dustin Rhodes that night.

Of course, it took some ill-advised reverse psychology from Jerry Lawler for Goldust to finally step from his self-imposed psychological closet.

The Goldust transformation began during In Your House XII, when Marlena accused Hunter Hearst Helmsley of making a pass at her. Upon learning of this alleged harassment, Goldust went on a rampage. During Helmsley's match with Marc Mero, 'Dust tossed aside his blond wig and gold robe and attacked Helmsley. He swatted both HHH and Mero with the Intercontinental belt and dashed away. While Mero won via countout, the evening's true winner was Goldust. During his assault of his adversaries, the delighted fans awarded him with a resounding cheer—yes, they applauded his actions!

When he tangled with Steve Austin later that night, Goldust was a rampag-

A rear chinlock (below) and a standing wristlock (right)? Those aren't the kind of straightforward tactics that made Goldust successful. We do seem to remember Dustin Rhodes using them, though.

ing cowboy trying to lasso the "Stone-Cold" one like a bucking bronco. Though he dressed like Goldust, he was again Dustin Rhodes, the son of the famous Dusty Rhodes, one of the toughest and most respected wrestlers in the history of the sport.

"I was stunned by what happened," said Rocky Maivia. "It was like he snapped, almost without provocation. When Helmsley bragged that he was more of a man than Goldust, well, that masculine part of his personality just came out."

It's funny, because for more than a year, Marlena all but transformed him into a wimp. When his manhood was threatened, well, that was all he could take.

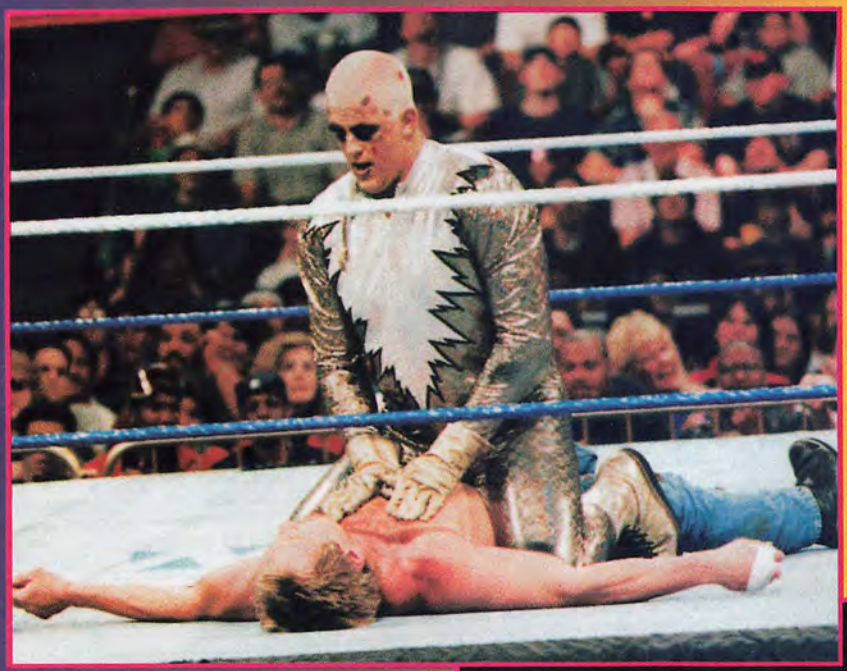
While Goldust's doffing of his wig that night symbolized his initial changeover, it took a run-in with Lawler one night later for the *real* Goldust to show up. During *Monday Night Raw*, Lawler accused Goldust of being "queer." Buoyed by the spirited support of the crowd, Goldust pummelled Lawler into a trembling pool of human gelatin.

The beating only told part of the story; as Goldust emerged from the ring, he bore a no-nonsense visage. His intense face told the story—he was now a *man* to be reckoned with.

"Do we have the old Dustin Rhodes back? Do we have a new renegade in the WWF?" pondered noted wrestling psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil. "I've seen wrestlers snap before, but this is a total makeover. It should be interesting to see if Goldust changes his style. He's always relied on tricks and mind games. If he drops all those tactics, what will he rely on? Simple wrestling techniques? Goldust is, after all, a Rhodes, and that pedigree is as strong as any in the sport. Will he still call himself Goldust? And who will he go after first?"

Clearly there are as many questions circulating around Goldust as there once were rumors. One thing seems obvious: He will chase down Helmsley. Although 'Dust is hardly a prototypical fan favorite, you can bet he'll seek vindication

Goldust was cheered when he battled Austin at IYH XII, and the fans are clearly siding with him in his conflict with Hunter Hearst Helmsley. It's not clear if he's turning into a fan favorite, but he's certainly toughening up.



Back at WrestleMania XII, Goldust was playing mind games with Roddy Piper (above). Could it be we'll soon see the bulldogging Dustin Rhodes we used to admire (right)?

against the WWF's present I-C champion.

"I don't know whether to cheer for Goldust or what," said Tara Marshal, a 15-year-old fan who attended *Raw* that night. "I don't know if he's just doing this to stand up for Marlena or if he's really changed. Maybe he'll go back to being Dustin Rhodes again. He should be one of the WWF's top guys in '97 either way."

As the ball dropped signifying the start of a new year, Goldust had already talked about teaming with Mero, who, as Johnny B. Badd in WCW, was a bit of a flamboyant dresser himself. If he does team with Mero, he might earn the complete respect and affection of the fans.

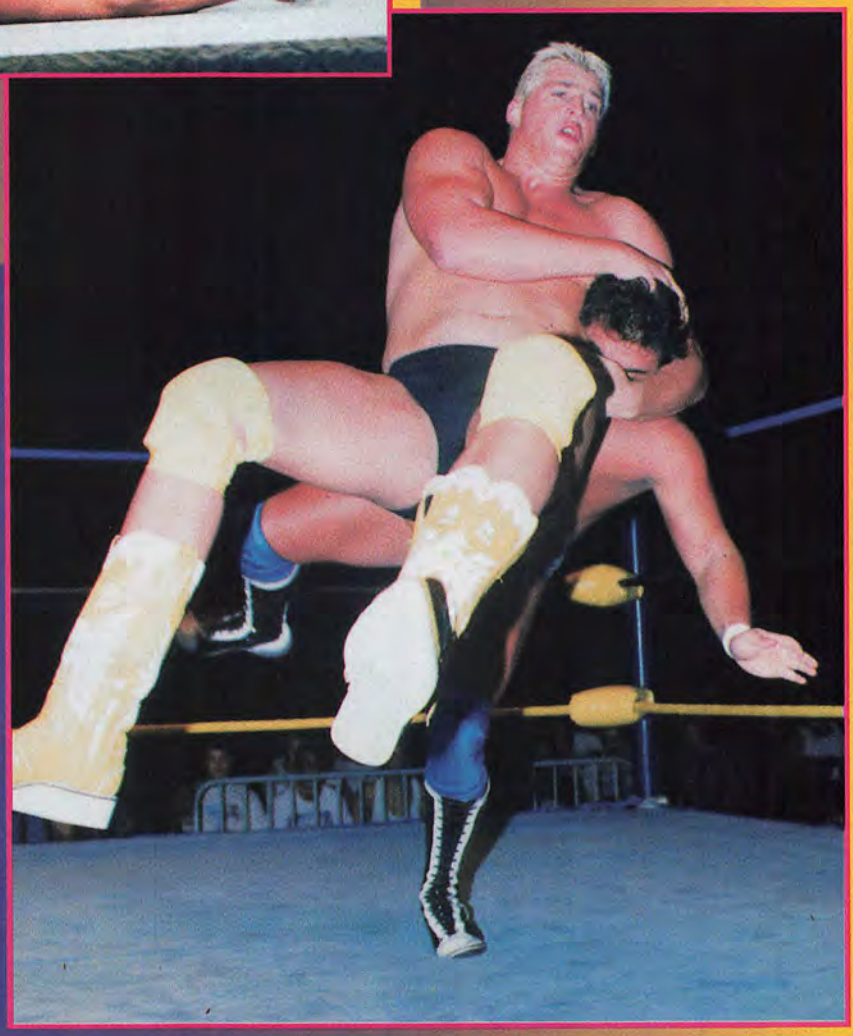
"Goldust and me—we're not friends," said Mero, "but we both have a problem with Hunter Hearst Helmsley, so if we can work together well, great. Maybe he is changing. Maybe in a few months I'll be able to trust him completely and say he's a good guy."

Much will hinge on whom Goldust wrestles and whether his opponents are disdained by the masses. It's one thing to cheer Goldust against an underhanded swine such as Lawler or Helmsley. But pit the new Goldust against Shawn Michaels or The Undertaker and he'd have a tough time emerging as WWF hero.

"Few wrestlers have been able to gain the fans' acceptance even when they didn't ask for it," said former WWF manager Lou Albano. "Shawn Michaels was hated for years. Slowly, the fans came to like him, even when he felt nothing but contempt for his audience. It will take the fans some time to warm up to a good Goldust. God, the concept of that makes my skin crawl. But we've seen stranger things happen before."

No stranger than Goldust's former demeanor. Have we seen an end to the taunting, the makeup, the harassment? In a sense, yes. But it looks like the new, reformed, grizzled, straight-as-an-arrow Goldust might be more dangerous than ever.

Or at least as dangerous as Dustin Rhodes. □



# THE GIANT'S

Photos By Bill Apter

Ted DiBiase tried to make peace between The Giant and Hulk Hogan after Starrcade, but to no avail. At this point, The Giant had made up his mind he was leaving the NWO. Now if we just knew for sure what the reason was.

# RETURN TO WCW

## Was It Money Or Pride?

**He left the NWO so suddenly, or did he? Sources say this move was in the works for months. Sting might have had something to do with it. Maybe a high-ranking Time Warner official did, too!**

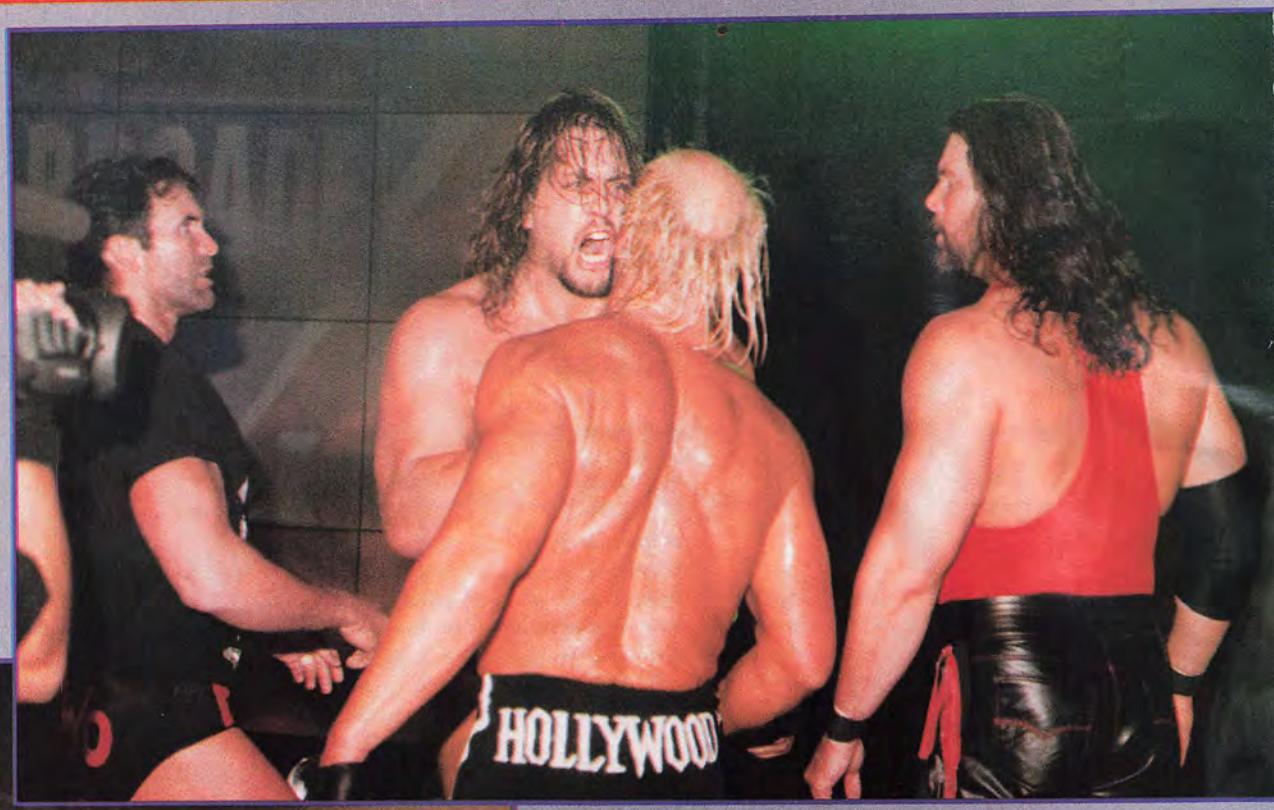
**By Steve Anderson**

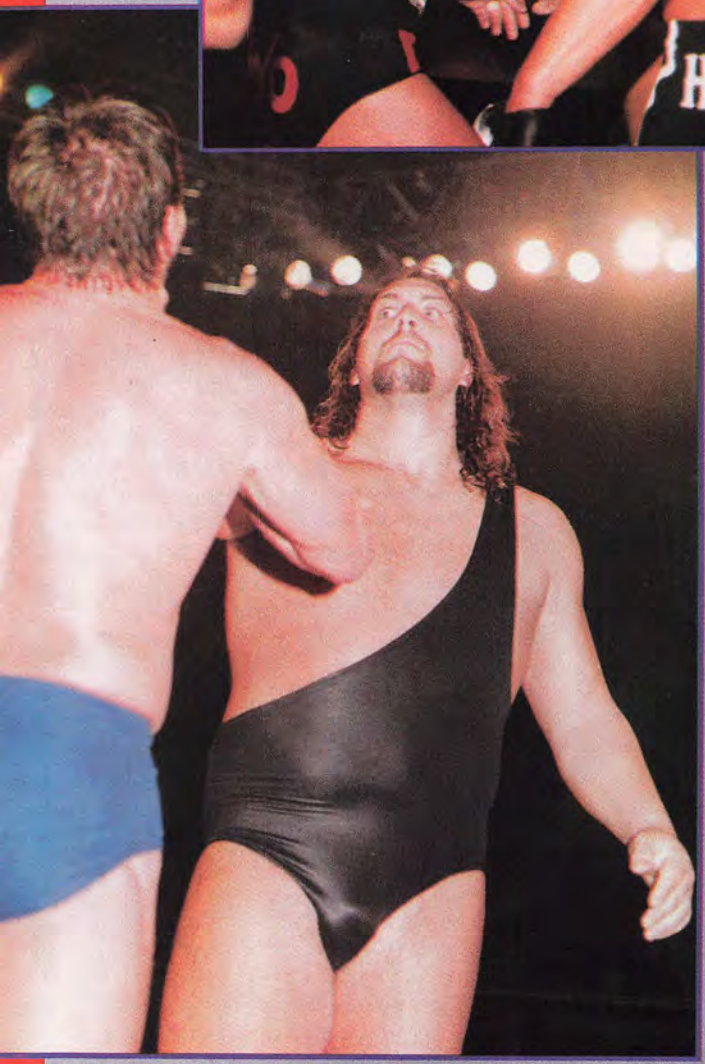
EVER SINCE Hulk Hogan executed the legdrop that marked the formation of the New World Order, many have waited for the day when this supergroup full of superegos would start to come apart.

When would the seams on the black and white NWO T-shirts slowly start to tear?

When The Giant signed on, the XXL NWO shirt he was given didn't fit. He needed something custom-made. But after a mere few months, he started to outgrow the famed garb and the organization itself. He officially severed his ties to the group one night after Starrcade, but the problems might have began at least a month earlier.

Weeks before Starrcade, WCW was in a state of panic. The NWO was gaining power over the promotion and its TV shows. Even the



**The Giant attempted to help Hogan by choke-slamming Piper at Starrcade (left), but he wasn't able to do it. He heard about it from Hogan and others in the NWO afterward (above). He won't be helping Hogan anymore.**

company's own senior vice president, Eric Bischoff, had aligned himself with Hogan and company.

According to reliable sources, a meeting was called in the New York office of Time Warner, and Bischoff was not invited. A decision was made. WCW was directed to take a proactive approach in its battle with the NWO. To do that, it had to steal the NWO's own strategy. In essence, it had to steal from the NWO in the same way the NWO had been stealing from WCW. It needed to go shopping for an NWO wrestler.

"The NWO has shown us that money talks," said one WCW official. "We needed to see what we could do."

The chances of buying an NWO wrestler seemed slim. Members of the group seemed so united. They were having such fun. Ted DiBiase had enough money to take care of all of them. But WCW has a lot of money, too. The only question, our source said, was which member to pursue.

"Let's just say we were told by someone *very* high up in this whole big organization to make a *very* substantial cash offer to one member of the NWO," the official said. "We were told it was priority number one to get this WCW-NWO war turned in our favor. And Bischoff never knew anything about it."

But who to pursue? Hogan? No, he's the leader of the group. Hall or Nash? They started this whole thing. There was really only one choice. The one man who never really seemed to fit in the group. A man who still might have had some WCW blood running through his veins.

They set The Giant in their sights.

"While it is true that he betrayed WCW, remember that they got to him when he was vulnerable," said the official.

**The Giant certainly dominated portions of his match with Lex Luger at Starrcade, but the turning point of the bout (and maybe The Giant's career) came when Sting made his way to the ring and whispered something to him.**

"He had just lost the title to Hogan, and they told him about all the movie deals and money they could get him. We were counting on the fact that the NWO hadn't completely taken over his life.

"All I know is The Giant was brought in to meet face-to-face with this *very powerful* man in our company. I can't tell you who that man is, but I saw The Giant arrive for the meeting. I was not told what happened in the meeting, but it wasn't long after that he was back with us."

So what did happen? Was there money exchanged that day? Did The Giant shake this powerful man's hand and say, "We have a deal. My NWO days are over. I'm playing for your team again"?

The Giant refused to answer that question. Instead, he chose to talk about what happened at Starrcade. According to The Giant, we can thank Sting, a man who professes no loyalty to WCW or the NWO these days, the man who declared himself a "free agent" this fall, for helping to bring him back.

At Starrcade, The Giant wrestled Lex Luger. Sting, again lurking in the catwalks, walked to the ring with his baseball bat in tow. First he whispered in Luger's ear. Then he whispered in The Giant's ear. Minutes later, Luger used the bat to defeat The Giant. But Sting might have been the one who knocked some sense into him.

"He said, 'You fool. Did you forget the promise Hogan made to you? He owes you a title shot for winning World War III! ... You're worthless now. You're career is over!'" Giant recalled. "That opened my eyes. I was so focused on the NWO agenda that I forgot about doing what was best for me. Everybody knows what happened after that."

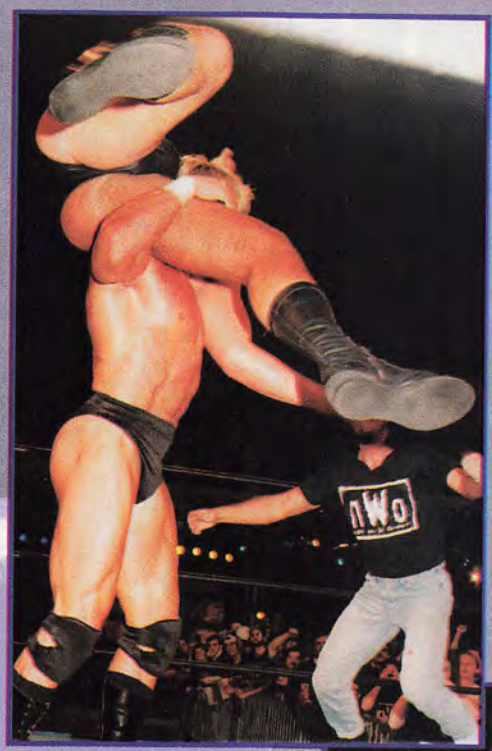
What happened is that the NWO gave The Giant more incentive to leave by berating him for his loss to Luger, blaming him for Hogan's loss to Roddy Piper later in the evening, and attacking him the next night on *Nitro*. Sometimes to convince someone to change, they have to be pushed. WCW did some nudging. Sting started the pushing, but, ironically, it was Hogan and his cronies who provided the final shove away from the NWO and back to WCW.

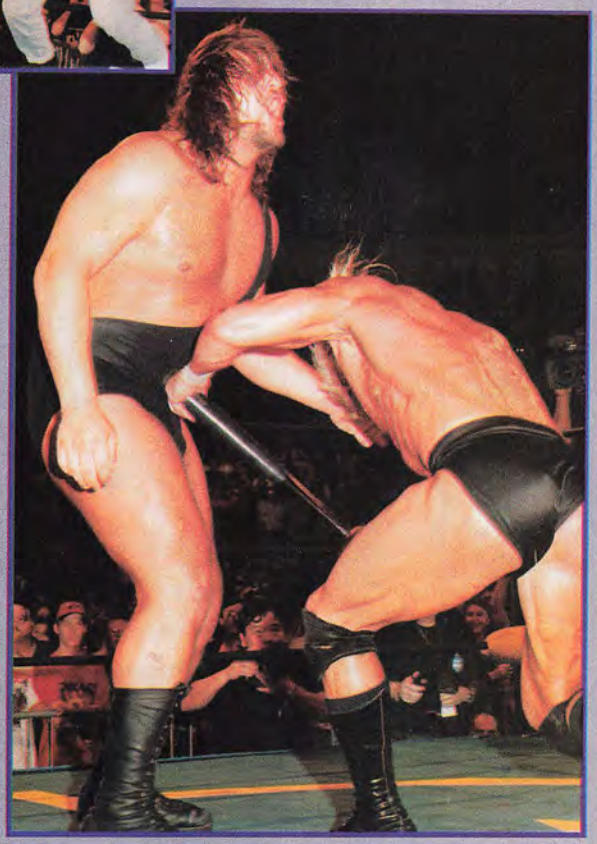
The result is that The Giant is back on the side of WCW and is leading the charge against the NWO. While there are at least a few WCW wrestlers who are hesitant to trust him, you can be sure that if he helps them destroythe NWO, they will warm up to him. When you're in a war, it always helps to have a 7'4" foot soldier on your side.

So what was it—money or pride—that got to The Giant?

"Does it matter now?" said that same WCW official.

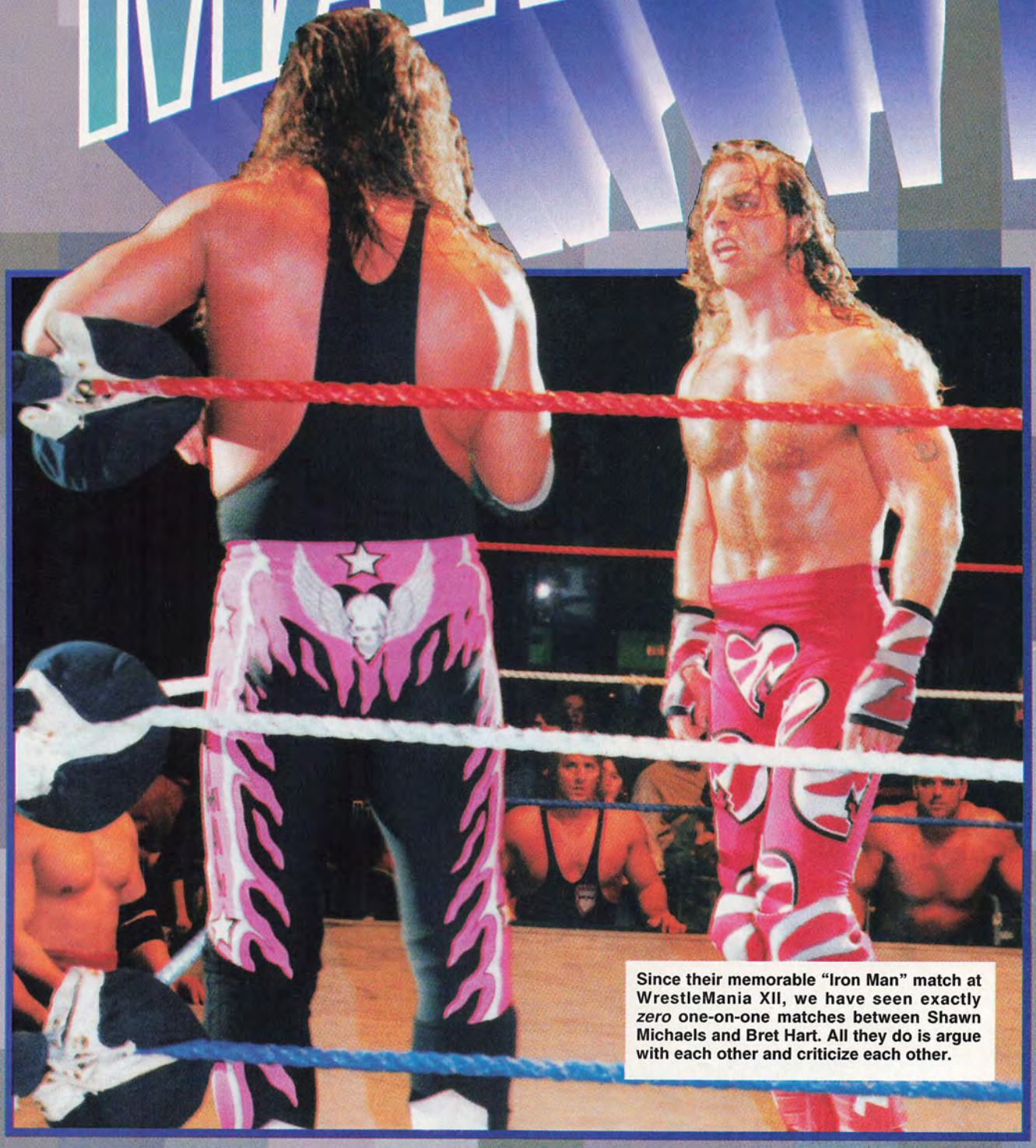
What matters is that The Giant is right where WCW wants him. □



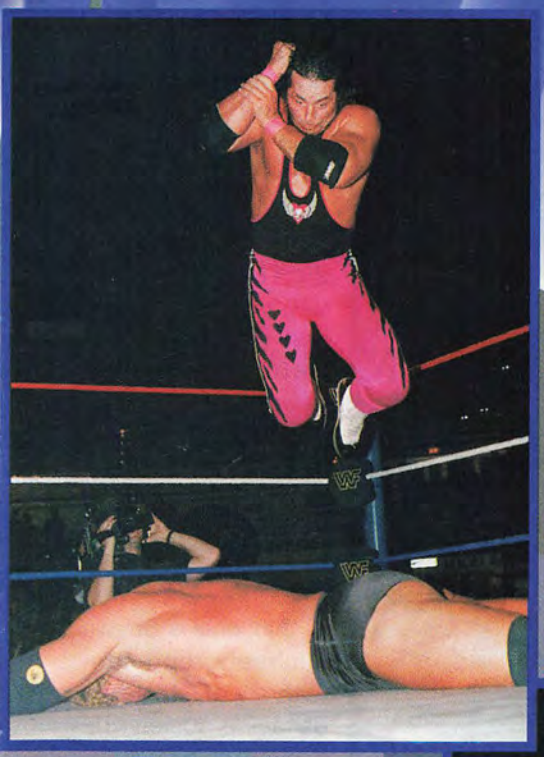
**Luger had The Giant in big trouble when he "racked" him at Starrcade, but thanks to interference from Six (left), he escaped. Luger, though, won shortly after hitting The Giant with Sting's bat (below). It was The Giant's last match as an NWO member.**

# MARCH M



Since their memorable "Iron Man" match at WrestleMania XII, we have seen exactly *zero* one-on-one matches between Shawn Michaels and Bret Hart. All they do is argue with each other and criticize each other.

# MADNESS



**They haven't met in a one-on-one match since WrestleMania XII, but as spring approaches, the war of words is heating up right along with the weather. This feud is going to last a while. Just shut up and wrestle, guys!**

**By Bryan Ethier**

**Bret Hart might have beaten "Psycho" Sid for the WWF title at In Your House XII (above) had Shawn Michaels not interfered. And Michaels, well, he has wrestled Goldust (right) and just about everyone else in the WWF besides Bret in the last year. But they've been thinking about each other.**

IT HAS GONE from the intriguing to the annoying to the exasperating. Shawn Michaels and Bret Hart—a.k.a. Shawn McCoy and Bret Hatfield.

Yes, the WWF's long-running feud is taking on fabled proportions, now rivaling in intensity the most famous quarrel of all, the Hatfield and McCoy feud. Of course, in this squared circle rivalry, there is much more at stake than just the safety and integrity of two grudgingly related families like the Hatfields and McCoys.

The Hart-Michaels feud has had a rippling effect on the entire WWF ranks, for it has diverted the attention of fans from wrestlers who are doing their best work *inside* the ring to a pair of obsti-

**Shawn Michaels on the cover of *Playgirl?* Bret is still lambasting him for getting involved with that publication. Shawn's getting real tired of the criticism.**

nate politicians stationed behind microphones.

"I've followed the WWF for 15 years," said Eric Hable of Syracuse, New York. "I've always respected and admired Shawn and Bret, just for different reasons. They have been great champions, but right now they are acting like a couple of spoiled brats fighting for the last Christmas cookie."

Of course that last Christmas cookie is the WWF World title, possessed at press time by "Psycho" Sid. Somewhere, somehow, over the last six months, both wrestlers decided to use political negative campaigning as a means of winning the approval of the fan base. In so doing, they have made the tussle for that "last cookie" insignificant compared to the fight for public favor.

"I am so tired of hearing Bret Hart whine and moan about the kind of champion I was. Even after I lost the belt to Sid, this guy was still belittling me behind my back," said Michaels. "I've had it with him. He's acting like that spoiled rich who didn't get his birthday wish. I wish he'd just go away. Bret Hart, you're old news!"

Hart, who prides himself on being a good role model, has been anything but a civic leader of late.

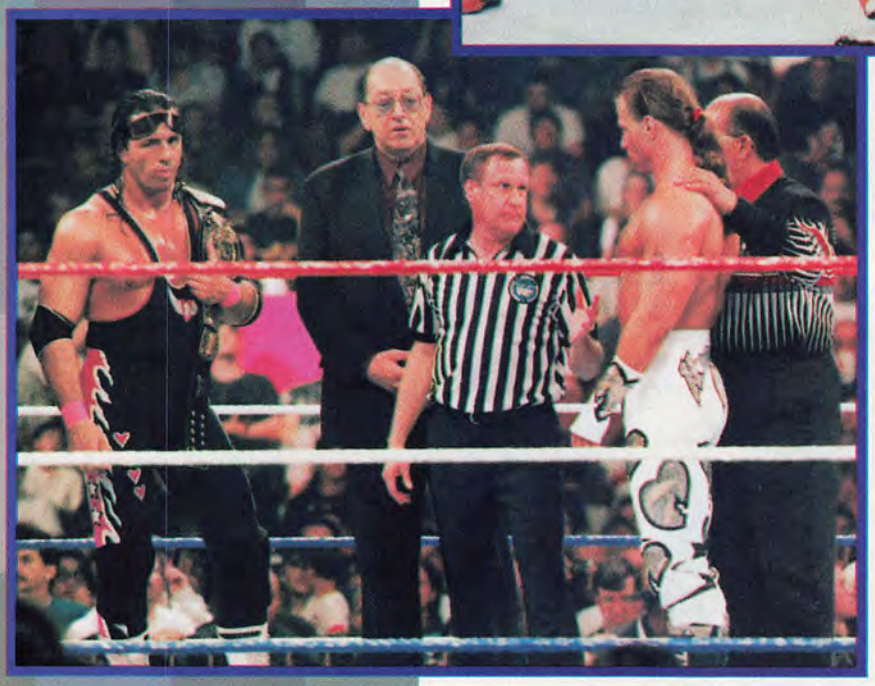
"Not only is Shawn Michaels representative of today's decaying society, he is a negative influence on today's wrestling world," said Hart. "I can't get in the ring without fearing he'll interfere in my matches. It's like he wants everything I have. What a spoiled brat. Yeah, I got a message for Shawn Michaels: You're an embarrassment!"

Certainly Michaels is guilty of interfering in Hart's matches. But that's true to his nature; if "The Heartbreak Kid" is anything, he's devious. Hart, on the other hand, has allowed himself to lose his focus, to be swayed by Michaels' rhetoric.

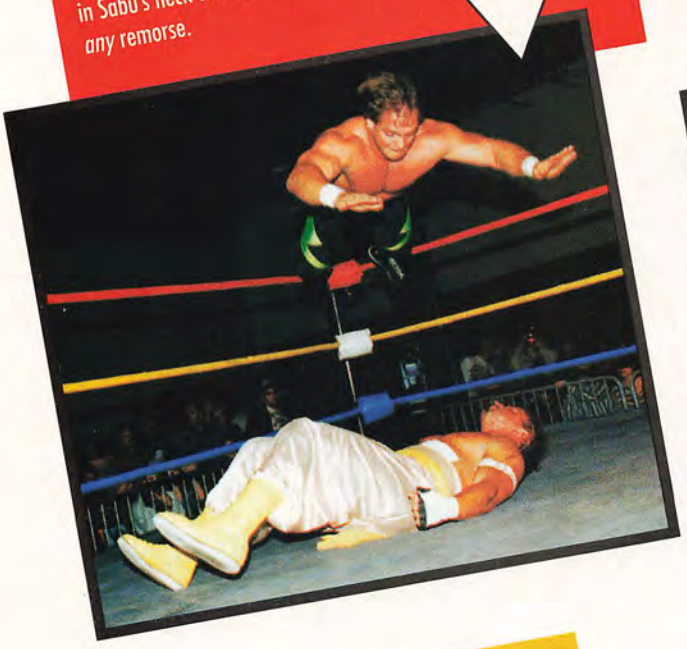
"I wish they'd both lose their voices," said Lon Gray, a WWF fan from Sacramento, California. "It

*(Continued on page 58)*

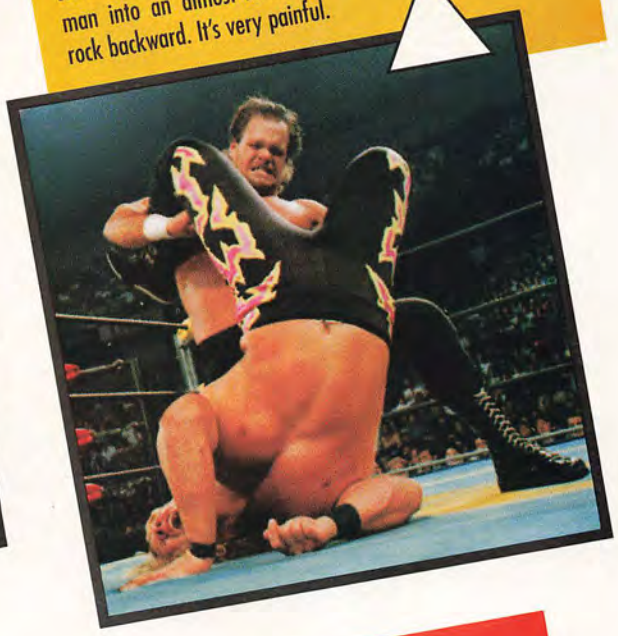
**We thought there was a lot of hype for the Bret-Shawn WM XII match (below). Now you can't watch any WWF TV show for more than five minutes without hearing about these two. They couldn't have known when they wrestled back in 1992 (right) that their feud would get this big.**



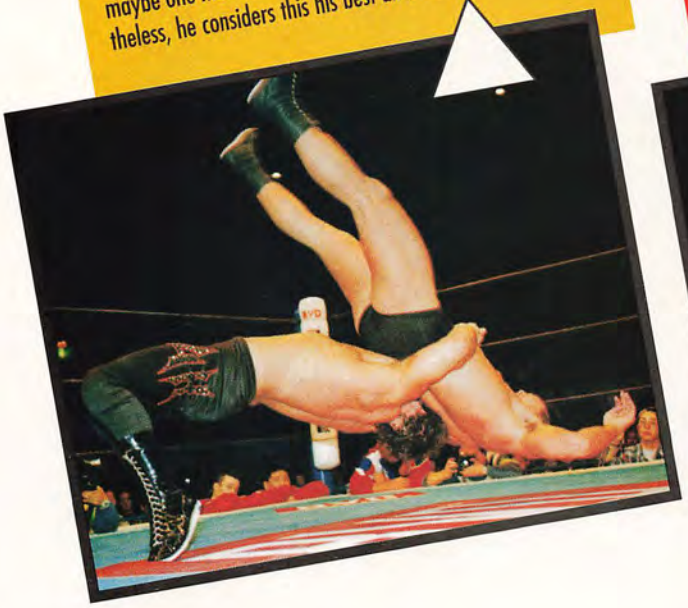
**MOST HATED OPPONENT**
***Sabu.*** Benoit probably wishes Sabu's stay in WCW, which ended more than a year ago, hadn't been so short. They never had the opportunity to renew their ECW rivalry there. And what a rivalry it was! Remember how Benoit first earned the nickname "Canadian Crippler"? He earned it by cracking several vertebrae in Sabu's neck during a 1994 ECW bout. And he never expressed any remorse.



**FAVORITE HOLD**
***Modified Boston crab.*** It's hard for Benoit to pick one favorite maneuver or hold, simply because he has such a vast repertoire. But he does love torturing opponents with this hold. It's like the Boston crab in that he'll turn his foe over onto his stomach and bend his legs back. However, Benoit will lift the man into an almost-vertical position and rock backward. It's very painful.



**GREATEST MATCH**
***vs. Shinjiro Otani, March 20, 1996.*** It's a surprise that Benoit has not yet won a title in WCW. He certainly has the ability. He came close, however, to becoming the first-ever WCW cruiserweight champ. He reached the finals of the tournament before losing to Otani. Had he gotten maybe one more break, he could have had the belt. Nevertheless, he considers this his best all-around performance.



**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**
***Jushin Liger.*** "An amazing athlete" is how Benoit described Liger. They've had some outstanding matches in Japan during the last few years, the most memorable of which took place late in '96. Liger chose Benoit as his opponent for his first match after he underwent surgery to have a benign brain tumor removed. Liger won that, but Benoit should get a rematch soon enough.

CHRIS BENOIT
Woman's Kind Of Man
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

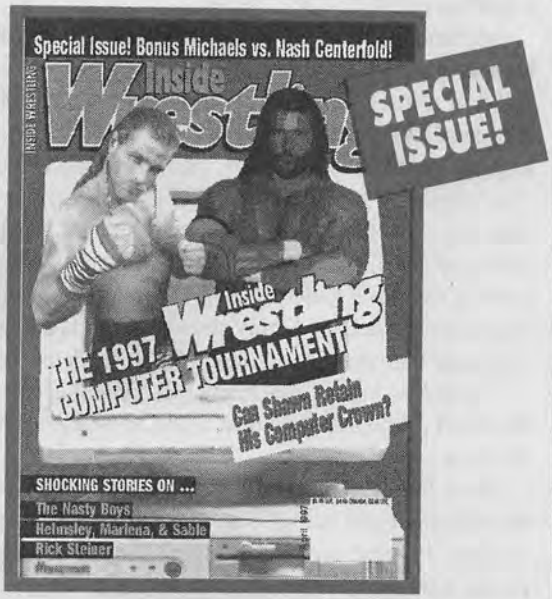
# close-up:

# CHRIS BENOIT

"CANADIAN CRIPPLER" CHRIS BENOIT, perhaps the most controversial member of The Four Horsemen, is one of the outstanding scientific wrestlers in the world ... Has a great flying headbutt along with an array of suplexes (belly-to-back, dragon, etc.) and aerial moves ... Was ranked fifth in the 1997 *Wrestling Superstars* Stat-O-Chart analysis of the best singles wrestlers in the world ... Born May 21, 1967, in Edmonton, Alberta, Benoit is small by wrestling standards, at 5'10", 218 pounds ... Was surrounded by wrestling growing up, and first became fascinated with the sport while watching Dynamite Kid ... Was trained by the legendary Stu Hart, the father of Bret and Owen, and later trained in the Orient while wrestling for New Japan ... Made his pro debut in December 1986 ... Continued wrestling in Calgary, mostly on undercards, while honing his skills and occasionally making a run at the Stampede North American title ... Picked up his wrestling pace in 1989 and moved into contention for the North American title, which was held by Larry Cameron ... Feuded with Johnathan Holliday ... Continued wrestling on undercards against the likes of Skull Mason and Angel of Death ... Teamed on and off with Beef Wellington against The Blackharts ... Benoit struggled in singles matches and remained stagnant near the bottom of the Stampede top 10 ... But he had more success when he travelled to Japan in 1990 ... Wrestling under a mask as Pegasus Kid, he defeated legendary aerial star Jushin Liger for the IWGP junior heavyweight title in August of that year ... Lost it back to Liger less than three months later, but in the interim gained attention and respect around the world ... The victory over Liger would change his life ... Lost a mask vs. mask match against Liger ... Benoit is truly an international star and has held titles in Mexico and Europe ... Made his first major run at the big time in early-1993 when he invaded WCW ... Put together an impressive unbeaten streak at the start of his WCW stay to move quickly into the top 10 ... Battled 2 Cold Scorpio in a fabulous pairing of outstanding aerial artists at SuperBrawl III on February 21, 1993 ... Scorpio defeated Benoit at 19:59, one second before the time limit expired ... Showed an ability to brawl, too, in a match against Ron Simmons at WCW's first card in New York City ... Formed what figured to be an outstanding tag team with veteran Bobby Eaton ... They lost to 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell at Slamboree '93 ... Eaton and Benoit worked well together at times, but they failed to make the anticipated impact on the WCW tag team scene ... Wrestling again as Pegasus Kid, he teamed with Lightning Kid for some sensational tag team matches in New Japan ... Benoit and Eaton lost a crucial match to Arn Anderson and Ric Flair that could have put them over the top as a team in WCW ... Also lost to The Nasty Boys ... Benoit started to struggle on his own, too, as he lost to Erik Watts ... Had a good year abroad in 1994, winning two tournaments in Japan, beating El Samurai with a power bomb from the top turnbuckle in the finals of one, and then pinning The Great Sasuke following a gut-wrench suplex from the top turnbuckle in the finals of another ... Respect for Benoit was growing in Japan, while a small group of fans, promoters, and media members were noticing his potential in the United States ... But, after eight years in the sport, it looked as if Benoit might never have his big breakthrough in North America ... Career took a turn for the best when he signed with ECW in mid-1994 ... Took on the nickname "Canadian Crippler" after breaking several of Sabu's vertebrae in one match ... Teamed with Rick and Scott Steiner to lose to Hiroshi Hase, Riki Choshu, and Tatsumi Fujinami on September 26 in Kobe, Japan ... Won his first major title in the United States when he and Dean Malenko teamed to beat Sabu and Taz for the ECW tag belts on February 25, 1995, in Philadelphia ... Their taste of the big time was brief: They lost the belts to Public Enemy on April 8 in Philadelphia. It was a triple threat match (Rick Steiner and Taz were the other team) ... Won a tournament in Japan, pinning Shinjiro Otani in the finals after using a "tombstone" piledriver from the second turnbuckle ... Came to the ring with manager Ted DiBiase at a WWF TV taping and seemed on the verge of signing with the federation ... But on October 28, at WCW's Halloween Havoc, The Four Horsemen were revived when Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and Brian Pillman joined in a three-way attack on Sting ... Shortly afterward, Benoit was introduced as the fourth member of the new Horsemen ... The relationship was shaky from the outset as Benoit asserted his independence and was hesitant to act as the team's bodyguard ... The Horsemen were angry that Benoit was not there to watch their backs at the December 11 *Nitro* ... "He shoulda been here," Anderson said ... Was he or wasn't he a committed member? Well, actually, he was ... Lost to Randy Savage by disqualification in one bout ... Struggled in singles matches at the outset of his WCW return ... Pillman soon left the Horsemen and was replaced by Steve McMichael ... Benoit started trouble when he suggested that Woman should be kicked out of the group for refusing to allow Elizabeth and Debra McMichael to hand Steve McMichael a briefcase during a July 22 match ... But their relationship took a wild turn last summer when Benoit and Woman discovered they actually liked each other ... This enraged Kevin Sullivan, who had had a close 10-year relationship with Woman ... Benoit had no trouble picking up on Sullivan's jealousy and rubbed it in his face, going so far as to show tapes of him and Woman dining together in Germany ... Reached the finals of the WCW cruiserweight title tournament in March and lost to Otani ... Battled Sullivan in a falls-count-anywhere match at The Great American Bash. The action spilled into an arena restroom before Sullivan kicked Benoit down the arena steps. Benoit, however, scored with a suplex off a press table for the pin ... Teamed with Arn and lost to The Giant and Sullivan at Bash at the Beach '96 ... Lost to Liger in Liger's first match back after undergoing brain surgery ... Battled Jeff Jarrett to a no-contest when Sting interfered ... Continued his feud with Sullivan ... Benoit had Woman in his corner at Starrcade' 96 when Jarrett pinned him after Sullivan hit him with a chair ... The Benoit vs. Sullivan feud continues and gets hotter as Sullivan's jealousy grows. But it may be time for Benoit to make his move and go after a major WCW title. □

# this month in...

## Inside Wrestling

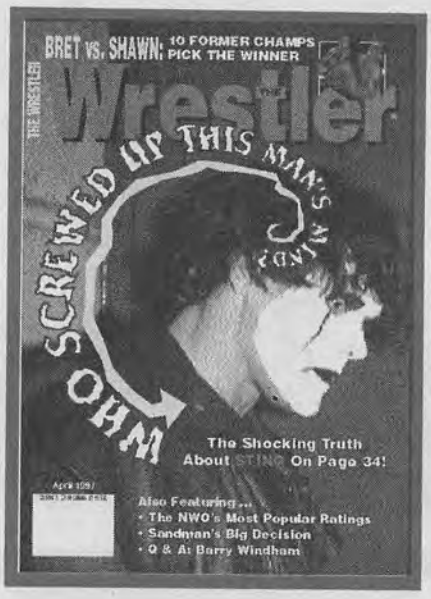



Can **SHAWN MICHAELS** repeat as INSIDE WRESTLING Computer Tournament champ this year? Not an easy task considering **KEVIN NASH**, **BRET HART**, **HULK HOGAN**, **STEVE AUSTIN**, **REY MISTERIO JR.**, **SCOTT HALL**, and nine other superstars were part of the field! ... We all know **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY** has a reputation for being an egotistical womanizer, but was he telling the truth when he told us, "Sable and Marlena are begging me to steal them"? ... Want to know the *real* as to why **THE NASTY BOYS** aren't in the NWO? We asked them, and they told us a very shocking tale!

All this—and much more!—in the April 1997 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***

**NOW ON SALE!**

## The Wrestler




**STING's** face covered by black and white face paint and a blank expression. It's still a very sad, scary sight. He doesn't explain his actions, but prefers to sit alone high above the ring. Was it the **IMPOSTOR STING** debacle that caused this transformation, or a sinister plan by **ERIC BISCHOFF**? ... You probably have opinions about the **SHAWN MICHAELS-BRET HART** feud, but we asked 10 former world champs who they thought would win the next big showdown ... We'll tell you why we think **HULK HOGAN** is booed a lot more than other members of the NWO!

All this—and much more!—in the April 1997 issue of ***The Wrestler***

**NOW ON SALE!**

# WWF vs. WCW

**Each month, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will take a close look at the latest developments in the WWF-WCW wars. It's your chance to get a better handle on who's winning perhaps the most crucial battle in the sport's history!**

THE NEWS STILL isn't very good for the WWF in regard to the Monday night ratings wars. *WWF Monday Night Raw* got a few of its lowest ratings ever in late-December and early-January, while *WCW Monday Nitro* continued to do very, very well.

But instead of pumping more money into *Raw* (and perhaps running more live *Raws*), the WWF opted to try a new show, *Shotgun Saturday Night*. If you live in one of the markets in which this syndicated show is aired, you've probably seen it. If you haven't seen it, you've probably heard what happened on the first few shows:

Marlena distracting The Sultan by undoing the top of her dress and watching as Bob Backlund lost his cool ... Ahmed Johnson using his "Pearl River Plunge" on a member of the Nation of Domination—on top of a car ... Jim Cornette getting his pants pulled down by midget wrestler Mini Vader, then running down a New York City street trying to hail a taxicab ... Brother Love introducing his new tag team, The Sisters of Love ... The Honky Tonk Man and Todd Pettengill leading fans in a song ... Sunny doing the Macarena with Mascarita Sagrada ... Sunny showing everyone a very risque videotape of herself in response to what Marlena did.

Vince McMahon loves to say that "anything can happen in the WWF," and that statement seems to be especially true for *Shotgun*.

Does this mean the WWF is conceding that it can't win the Monday night ratings war, that it feels it's better to try to get fans to watch on another night? Maybe. Though a lot of people have told us they aren't crazy about *Shotgun's* format, at least people are talking about the show.

## THE RAW-NITRO WAR

*A clean sweep for Nitro isn't even news anymore. What's notable about this four-week period is that Nitro's 11 p.m. replay beat Raw's prime-time broadcast on December 23 (1.6-1.5) and tied on December 30 (1.6-1.6). The gap between the two shows continues to widen. Cumulative Nielsen ratings through December 13: Nitro—2.98; Raw—2.59.*

| | Date | Rating | Households | Main Event |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Raw | 12/23 | 1.5 | 1.16 mil. | Bret-New Razor |
| Nitro | 12/23 | 3.1 | 2.16 mil. | R. Steiner-Jarrett |
| Raw | 12/30 | 1.6 | 1.16 mil. | Lawler-Goldust |
| Nitro | 12/30 | 3.6 | 2.52 mil. | Dragon-Liger |
| Raw | 1/6 | 2.1 | 1.51 mil. | Bret-Vader |
| Nitro | 1/6 | 3.4 | 2.42 mil. | Luger-Meng |
| Raw | 1/13 | 2.3 | 1.61 mil. | Crush-Undertaker |
| Nitro | 1/13 | 3.4 | 2.38 mil. | Hogan-Giant |

But just because WCW is doing better in the ratings, it doesn't mean WWF employees have stopped taking shots at the rival promotion.

Jim Ross admitted to a caller on a *WWF LiveWire* that he had started to watch the Roddy Piper-Hulk Hogan match at Starrcade, then fell asleep in the middle of it. Ross also told a caller who asked him if Scott Hall and Kevin Nash would be appearing at the WWF Royal Rumble that they ought to if they wanted a chance to see a good pay-per-view. Another asked if the WWF was interested in signing Randy Savage (who returned to WCW in January). Ross replied that the WWF was building with youth and that people his (Ross') age shouldn't be wrestling.

At press time, many insiders were predicting that Savage would eventually re-sign with WCW.

Curt Hennig is still expected to make his WCW debut by spring, but what we don't know is whether he'll side with WCW or the NWO ... or if he'll finally return to active competition.

And, finally, the WWF *and* WCW might have something to worry about besides their ugly war come spring. That's right, ECW is planning to hold its first pay-per-view on April 13. It will be held at the ECW Arena, and if ECW has success on pay-per-view, perhaps one day we'll be titling this column, "WWF vs. WCW vs. ECW."

According to some rumors going around the wrestling business, both the WWF and WCW were hoping that ECW's pay-per-view plans would never materialize. With WCW/NWO and the WWF each putting on approximately one pay-per-view per month, will fans be willing to shell out a few extra buck to watch ECW's?

We'll see.

## VOICE OF THE FANS

"How is *Shotgun Saturday Night* supposed to help boost the WWF's ratings and exposure when it's not even on a bunch of stations? I live in a major metropolitan area and can't see it. This is no way to make a television program last."

JANE FAUST
Philadelphia, PA

"I think what gives *Nitro* the edge over *Raw* is that the shows are always live. It's more exciting to watch something that you know is happening as you see it than something taped weeks ago. This is a sport, not a sitcom. Things are constantly changing, and if a show is taped, fans might not get to see what happened right away."

BRIANNA TAYLOR
Winchester, VA

"Toward the end of last year, *Nitro* had me convinced that WCW was surpassing the WWF in television show quality. Lately, though, *Nitro* has become one long New World Order infomercial. I know that Eric Bischoff is with them, but he needs to remember that it's WCW's show, not the NWO's. If Bischoff isn't professional enough to separate his personal and professional duties, then he should be fired."

ALBERT McKENNA
Fort Lauderdale, FL

"I gave up watching *Raw* altogether since the NWO came to town. There's just so much going on in WCW that it's too hard to flip back and forth between the two. I'm always afraid of missing some important action. I'd rather just watch only WCW than buy a VCR, especially since the WWF is hardly worth the effort to tape the shows."

BILLY JOHNSTON
Birmingham, AL

"*Nitro* has become predictable because of its unpredictability. It's a given that the NWO will interfere somehow every week, which ruins the show for me. It makes me cringe to think they would spoil a great show to satisfy their own egos."

KAREN PERRY
Pittsburgh, PA

"*Nitro* is the hottest thing on TV and the popular show to be seen at. Why would arenas be full each week? Maybe if *Raw* was also live every week, their arenas would be filled, too."

GARY BERSEN
San Diego, CA

"There's only one reason to watch WWF: Steve Austin. He is the best reason to tune into *Raw* every week. He's talented, he's tough, and he's a no-nonsense guy who just happened to be smart enough to leave the WCW for a better organization. I faithfully watch *Raw* just to see what he's going to do this week."

PETER CAULEY
Albany, NY

"I just saw the first *Shotgun Saturday Night* and I thought it was great! It's definitely what the WWF needs to gain an advantage. It's has the entertaining quality of the old *Tuesday Night Titans* show mixed with great wrestling and the atmosphere of an independent show."

MIKE ALLENDALE
Tulsa, OK

"*Nitro* is definitely kicking *Raw's* butt in the ratings and the amount of action presented each week. I really wish Vince McMahon would do something to make it more exciting."

TONIA WALLER
Minneapolis, MN

*SURFING WITH SUNNY.* These days, one of the surest measures of fame is presence on the Internet. How do I know this? Because I did a search on "Dave Rosenbaum" and came up with only three hits that had anything to do with me. This was surprising, because I expected zero, but rest assured that none of the sites were actually about me; they contained stories I had written.

Then I did a search on "Sandra Bullock," who's about as hot in Hollywood as anyone could ever be; she came up with 127 site hits. Nicole Kidman: 15 site hits. Sounds about right.

Now, get this.

Beulah McGillicutty: 12 hits.

Missy Hyatt: two hits that had anything to do with her, and both were for the same photo, although at different sites.

Hulk Hogan: more than 2,000 site hits.

Tammy Fytch: 47 site hits!

This confirmed what I already expected: Having achieved Internet fame somewhere between Nicole Kidman/Dave Rosenbaum and Hulk Hogan, Ms. Fytch—better known as Sunny—has become a mainstream star. Not only has she appeared on network TV—she recently was a guest on *Live! With Regis And Kathie Lee*—but she has become known outside wrestling circles.

For example, you can find her pictures on any number of movie star and celebrity sites on the Internet.

More incredibly, the sites devoted to Ms. Fytch aren't merely informational, they're *worship* pages. In other words, people—mostly men—took the time and effort to develop these shrines to Sunny.

For example, there's [http://www.arias.net/hbk/wrestling/galltery/sunny/index.htm]

Okay. Forget that one. It no longer exists, according to the annoying "no link found" message.

Let's move on ... [http://pages.prodigy.com/Tammy/home.htm]

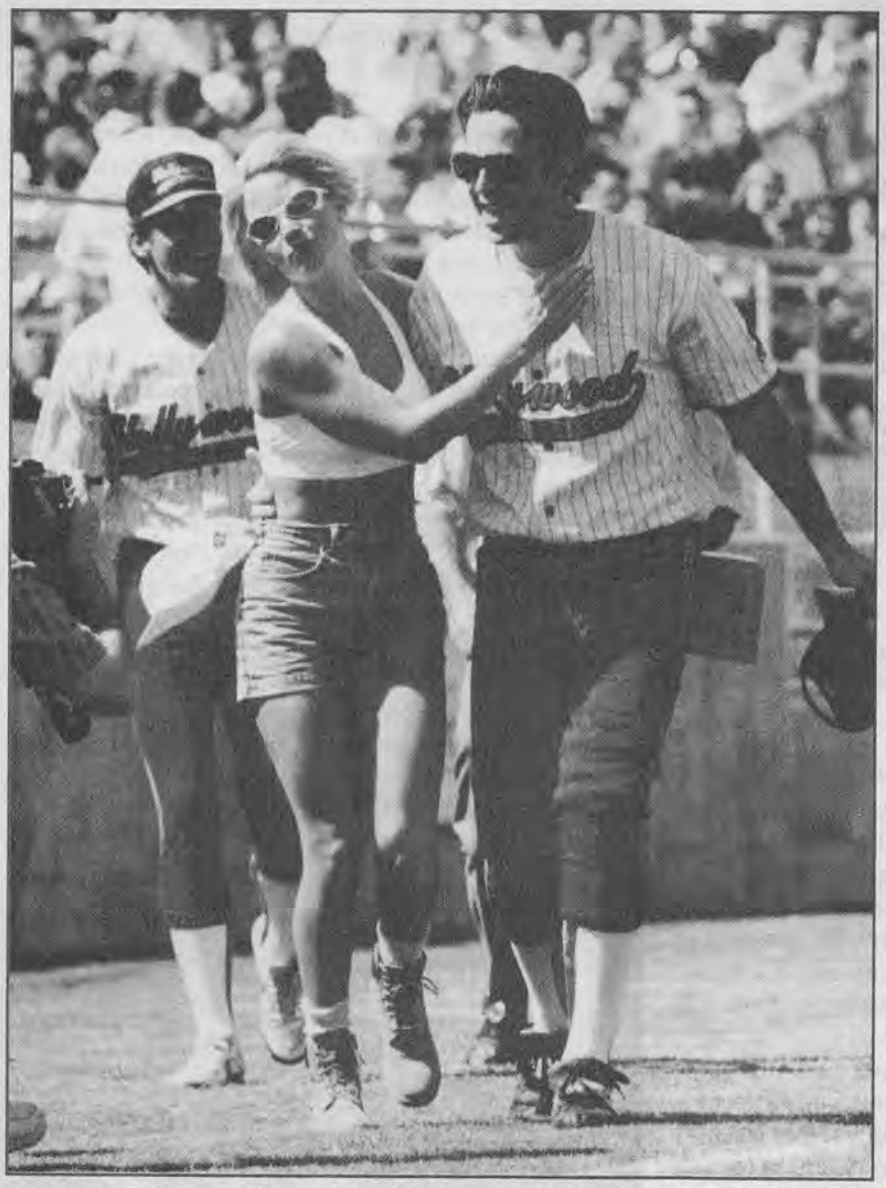
Now that's more like it! The site is called Tammy, Tammy, Tammy!! (exclamation marks, both of them, are theirs), and it includes a variety of Sunny/Tammy photos. Sunny in high school (freshman, junior, and senior year, plus cheerleading photos) and Sunny in all states of dress (mostly in a bikini). There are two pages of bio information—nothing you didn't know already—and more photos.

Now let's move on to [http://www.cybr sports.com/candt/tammy.htm], another site that is appropriately named Tammy, Tammy, Tammy! (only one exclamation point). Here we are told that Tammy "Sunny" Fytch attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts, where she majored in pre-law. "An admirer of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Tammy tried to get into the wrestling business." Then it tells us how she succeeded and what she did, before giving us more photos.

Now we come to [http://rhf.bradley.edu/shark/], which is called "Shark's Page" and has some language not suitable for anyone under the age of, say, 55. The page is still under construction, but there's a photo of Sunny in a bikini gracing Shark's work-in-progress.

Next up is [http://web.cs.mun.ca/darring/pics.html], which is nothing more than a collection of some fan's personal pictures taken with the wrestlers, includ-

**The lovely Sunny certainly thinks she's number one. So do a lot of her fans, many of whom have built shrines to her on the Internet.**



**Sunny got pretty close to Jonathan Silverman, star of *The Single Guy*, at WrestleMania XII. In cyberspace, it appears, she's a bigger star than Nicole Kidman.**

ing Sunny (and Shawn Michaels, too). Must have made his life worth living.

And, finally, we have my favorite page: [http://www.pellow.demon.uk/sunny/], a Sunny shrine decorated with Sunny wallpaper (for those non-computer people out there, wallpaper is the background on a computer screen) and a collection of 27 more Sunny photos. This is quite a colorful site.

Now the bad news for those of you into this sort of stuff: There are no naked photos of Sunny/Tammy. There's a reason: You don't build a shrine to a person, then run pictures of him or her naked. Besides, Tammy Fytch/Sunny, as far as I know, has never posed for any nude photographs.

You also will not find any naked photos of me on the Dave Rosenbaum sites, which is very good news for everyone.

By the time you read this, there might be hundreds of Sunny sites. Who knows? She might even make an appearance on Letterman or Leno (if Dole can, Sunny can). Or perhaps she'll make a guest appearance on *Fitness Beach* or *Crunch Fitness*. She has already appeared on MTV's *Singled Out*.

The thing is, I'm really amazed by this fascination with Sunny. Sure, she's beautiful and sexy, but is she any more beautiful or sexy than some of the other women who have walked down the wrestling aisle? Perhaps the difference is that now we have the Internet, and when TV producers are researching who's hot and who's not, they often turn to their computers. Poor Missy Hyatt. She missed a windfall by about three years. Sunny is reaping the rewards of what Missy made possible.

Not that people aren't capitalizing on Missy's good looks, either. Find your way to the right site and you can purchase an autographed color photo of Ms. Hyatt for $25. Autographed, too, although I don't know why anybody would pay for the photo when you can download it for free off the Internet.

By the way, for you parents who are reading, none of these sites requires your supervision or the use of Cyber Nanny. They're as clean and wholesome as an issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. That's because Sunny is as clean and wholesome as PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. Nearly as famous, too. □


COMPUTER
WRESTLING
IBM PC

THE MOST REALISTIC STRATEGY/SIMULATION COMPUTER GAMES ON THE MARKET TODAY!

RAMPAGE WRESTLING

Over 400 professional wrestler's from the past and present • Match the champions of former eras against today's best • Singles matches, tag team, 3 man tag, rumbles – with up to 30 men in the ring at once, cage matches, war matches, or create your own style of match • More than 100 possible moves and holds • Head to head or computer opponent • Won-lost records, complete print out of match action • Add wrestler's, rate yourself and your friends!

ORDER TODAY!
Mail check or money order for $39.95 each.
You may call in and order with VISA or Master Card.
Please add $3.00 for shipping and handling.
For more information, call or write for a free brochure.
1-800-477-7032

LANCE HAFFNER GAMES
P.O. BOX 100594 • NASHVILLE, TN 37224

# win or lose or draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

IF THERE'S ONE thing The Four Horsemen like to be, it is in control. In whatever they do, they believe they must be "in control" of the situation.

This is why it's a big problem for some members of the Horsemen to see Chris Benoit and Woman, in their words, "out of control." This, they say, is dangerous. While no one but Benoit and Woman know exactly what is going on between them, we do know there is a special relationship there.

"I don't like it at all," Steve McMichael said. "It's completely counterproductive to what we're trying to accomplish here. Chris and I are the new guys. We have to show our loyalty to the Horsemen. He needs to rethink his priorities."

McMichael is most concerned with the strength of the Horsemen, but his wife, Debra, has another concern regarding Woman. The former beauty pageant queen is desperate to be the top female in the group. With all the attention focused on Woman, Debra is jealous.

That is obvious. She insists, though, she has nothing against Woman or Benoit.

"I love both these wonderful people!" she gushes with a sickening phoniness. "I really do!"

Sure.

Where does Kevin Sullivan stand in all this? He's had his own relationship with Woman for more than 10 years, but as someone who is not a member of the Horsemen, he stands alone. He sees Benoit calling Woman "100 percent woman, from head to toe." He stands in the shadows. His anger grows. But he doesn't know what to do.

One thing he probably won't do is turn to the NWO. But Woman and Benoit might.

When Benoit competed briefly in the WWF a year or so ago, he attempted to forge an alliance with Ted DiBiase. That didn't work out too well, but they parted on good terms.

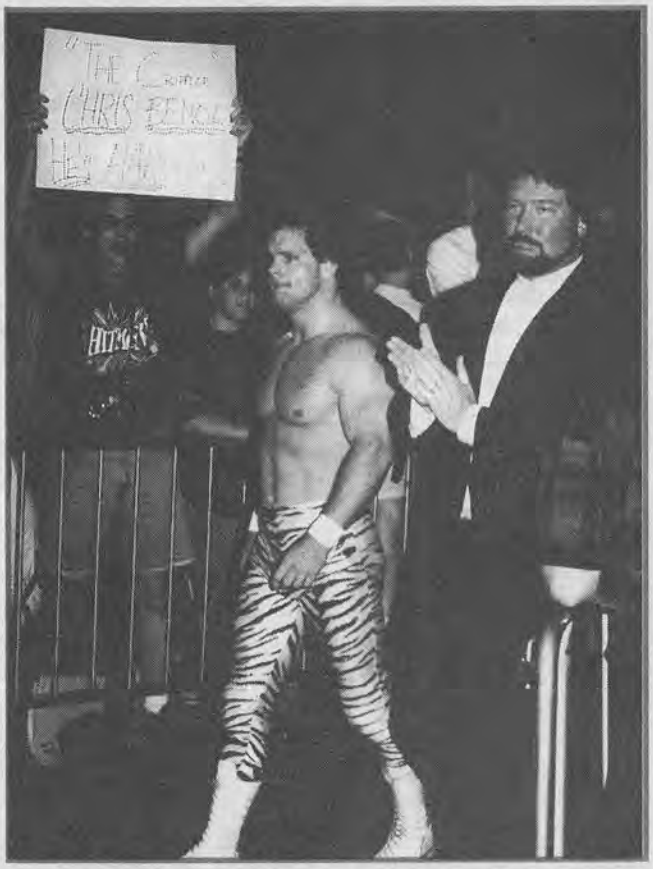
If you think about it, it makes sense. Many of the Horsemen are questioning Benoit and Woman's loyalty. They're once again talking about bringing Jeff Jarrett into the fold. Benoit can't stand Jarrett, and he doesn't like what he's hearing from McMichael. Woman doesn't appreciate some of the things Debra McMichael has said about her behind her back.

In other words, they're disillusioned. They feel betrayed. Maybe DiBiase spots them coming out of an arena late one night and says, "Hey, Chris, remember me?" They talk, DiBiase throws out a few big numbers, Benoit and Woman ask where to sign, and there you have it, two new members of the NWO.

Arn Anderson (as he has done so often in Horseman history) is trying ever so hard to hold the group together. It is "Double-A" who is bothered most by the dissension. Any talk about the NWO infuriates him.

"No member of the Horsemen is going to have anything to do with the NWO, not while I'm here," he said. "This whole matter with Benoit and Woman is extremely unfortunate. I hate it more than anybody else does. But we will get through it. We *will* remain united!"

*(Continued on page 46)*



**No, Chris Benoit is not part of the NWO, but he did have a business relationship with Ted DiBiase when he made a brief stop in the WWF before joining WCW. If he gets fed up with the Horsemen, he could go NWO.**

ALL-NEW QUESTIONS ON LINE NOW!

# WHY HAVEN'T YOU 'TAKEN THE PWI CHALLENGE?

**Take the PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED CHALLENGE and go head to head with the editors of PWI in the trivia match of your life. If you can answer seven consecutive questions correctly—without getting pinned—you can earn the title "Undisputed Wrestling Trivia Champ" and win $100* or a PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED subscription!**

## CALL NOW!

**1-900-288-7526**
**1-900-451-3676**
**0891 299 760**

Cost per minute in the United States is $1.49 per. Cost per minute in Canada is $1.99 per. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is 39p cheap rate and 49p at all other times, incl. VAT. Kids, get your parents' permission.

**This service is available on both rotary-dialed and touch-tone phones.**

## NOW AVAILABLE IN U.S. CANADA U.K.

## WIN $100* CASH PRIZE

**PLUS: Each month, three runners-up will receive a free PWI subscription!**

## ALL-NEW QUESTIONS!

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next $100* winner!

**Stan Hansen won the AWA World title by defeating which champion?**
1) Rick Martel
2) Nick Bockwinkel
3) Curt Hennig
4) Verne Gagne

**The largest crowd ever to witness a pro wrestling show (190,000) was in what city?**
1) London, England
2) Toronto, Ontario
3) Pyongyang, North Korea
4) Tokyo, Japan

**True or False: Hulk Hogan is the only wrestler to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated**
1) True
2) False

**Which of the following cities did NOT host a portion of WrestleMania II?**
1) Chicago, Illinois
2) Atlantic City, New Jersey
3) Uniondale, New York
4) Los Angeles, California

**WRESTLING CHALLENGE RULES & REGULATIONS**

Call as often as you like. The contest begins April 1, 1996 and runs through September 1, 1996. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is $1.49 per minute in the United States, $1.99 in Canada, and 49p (39p cheap rate) in the United Kingdom. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333, USA. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one $100* winner. (*Or for U.K. winners, the equivalent in pounds sterling at the time the winner is selected.) From April 1, 1996, until September 1, 1996, a total of 18 PWI six-issue subscriptions (retail value $15 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

4220/03-96

# FANS ITS TIME TO SPEAK YOUR MIND!

# VOTE

*Once Again the World Wrestling Federation (W.W.F.) Held its annual Hall of Fame Banquet and induction but failed to induct one of the greatest wrestler's of all time.*

**BRUNO SAMMARTINO**

**"The Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino as W.W.F. champion for ten years stood up to every challenger, wrestling 52 weeks a year and defended his title at least once a month more than any champion past or present in any wrestling promotion.**

*Fans for the Hall of Fame induction of "The Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino*

**CALL 1 (900) 255-6758**

**$1.99 PER/CALL • 18 +ONLY**

***TOUCH TONES ONLY***

**INFO SERVICES • LONGVIEW, WA**

**(503) 299-4053**


## win, lose, or draw

*(Continued from page 44)*

That's what Anderson hopes, but the turmoil that Benoit and Woman started isn't merely distracting them from their opponents. It is, as Anderson implies, threatening the survival of the Horsemen. And if there's anyone who should be concerned about that, it is Ric Flair.

But where has Flair been? Recovering from his shoulder injury, yes, but that need not prevent him from finding a way to correct the problems. For the most part, he's letting Anderson carry the ball.

Maybe he's staying out because of Sullivan. They competed together for more than 15 years, as both friends and as foes. They have a lot of respect for each other personally and professionally. Sullivan was always careful about approaching Flair, and Flair is like-minded.

"Flair likes to shoot off his mouth," said Lex Luger, "but he doesn't want to make war with Sullivan. I think Flair would rather let Sullivan and Benoit settle this thing on their own and make it have nothing to do with the Horsemen. I wouldn't be surprised to see the Horsemen replace Benoit."

Benoit might agree.

"Look, the Horsemen have been great," he said, "but I have to do what's right by me. I don't exist to please Flair or Anderson. They won't use me!"

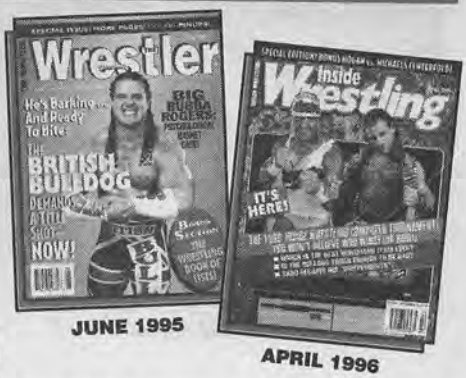
Maybe, even after the birth of the NWO, the Horsemen remain *the* group to watch. □

**It's his relationship with Woman that has gotten Benoit into so much trouble with the other Horsemen, but he remains very loyal to her.**

# AVAILABLE NOW!

## A VERY SPECIAL SELECTION OF PREMIUM BACK ISSUES!

**Over the past few years, these special issues of *The Wrestler* and *Inside Wrestling* have become coveted by collectors the world over. Now, in limited quantities, they are available to you for the low price of just $5 each! Be sure to complete your collection today!**




JUNE 1995

APRIL 1996

**MARCH 1993 *WRESTLER*** features a full-color 12-page section, "1992: The Year In Pictures," that details all the most important events, both in and out of the ring, of that remarkable year in the mat sport.

**MARCH 1994 *WRESTLER*** features the full-color 12-page section, "1993: The Year In Pictures," detailing all the most important happenings, both in and out of the ring, of those notable 12 months in the mat sport.

**JUNE 1994 *WRESTLER*** is an 88-page spectacular featuring 20 pages of "The stuff all fans should know"—the best wrestling quiz ever! What's your wrestling IQ? Find out with this issue! Features four full-color pinups!

**SEPTEMBER 1994 *WRESTLER*** packs 88 pages of excitement into one big package—including the lively and candid "WWF Midyear Report," a comprehensive review of the WWF through the first half of the year! Includes four color pinups!

**WINTER 1994 *WRESTLER*** includes the must-read bonus section, "Wrestling From A To Z"—an alphabetical array of wrestling trends and turmoil! Four full-color pinups complete this sensational 88-page package!

**MARCH 1995 *WRESTLER*** looks back at 1994 with a spectacular 23-page section, "1994: The Year In Pictures," that includes four color pages highlighting the most important events of the year.

**JUNE 1995 *WRESTLER*** is 88-pages full of information, including an 18-page "Book Of Lists" section featuring the hottest lists in wrestling and full-color pages of Jeff Jarrett, Hulk Hogan, Sid Vicious, and Sabu.

**DECEMBER 1995 *WRESTLER*** lays down the law in a special 20-page rulebook developed by the editors. This section includes four color pinups depicting flagrant rules violations.

**MARCH 1996 *WRESTLER*** is an 88-page edition including the most memorable, the violent, and bizarre moments from 1995 in a special "Year In Pictures" section, with four full-color pages featuring major issue from the year.

**JANUARY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** offers the most extensive coverage of SummerSlam '93 and Fall Brawl anywhere: seven pages of analysis plus two pages of full-color highlights from each card!

**APRIL 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** includes the first-ever Inside Wrestling computer tournament! You won't believe who wins—or how! This 88-page issue's four-page color section includes an action centerfold—from the tournament?!

**JULY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** includes 21 pages of one-of-a-kind prognostications as Inside Wrestling looks into the sport's future and reports back to you! Coverage in this 88-page issue includes a four-page pinup section!

**OCTOBER 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** presents the bold and brassy "WCW Midyear Report," a 15-page overview of the first half of 1994. Four full-color pinups fill out this 88-page special edition.

**APRIL 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** features the second-annual Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament, including an action centerfold from the final match—is this for real?! Our computer seems to think so! You won't believe who wins!

**JULY 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** is a power-packed 88-pager (including four color pinups) that included our popular "Wrestling Cool" section. Who's the coolest dude, babe, crippler, and daredevil? One thing all our readers agreed on: This issue was cool!

**OCTOBER 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** reports on the state of affairs of World Championship Wresting for the first half of 1995 in "WCW Midyear Report." We tell you how the stars fared among the turmoil in this special 88-page edition that includes four full-color pinups.

**WINTER 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** gives you the birthdays of more than 180 of the hottest wrestlers in the sport today in a special pullout calendar and datebook. This book also features great historical information for each month!

**APRIL 1996 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** presents the third edition of the Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament, and the results just get more startling each year! The highlight of this annual 88-page special, as our readers have told us, is the computer-generated centerfold action shot from the tournament final.

**JULY 1996 *INSIDE WRESTLING*** takes you away from the wrestling ring and into the personal lives of wrestling's hottest stars. What makes Sunny cry? What's Sabu's favorite TV show? What's the dumbest thing Shawn Michaels has ever done? What scares Jim Cornette? What brings Sting down? This 88-pager includes color shots of Sting, Sunny, Sabu, and Michaels.

## ONLY $5 EACH!

- ❒ MARCH 1993 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ MARCH 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ JUNE 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ SEPTEMBER 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ WINTER 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ MARCH 1995 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ JUNE 1995 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ DECEMBER 1995 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ MARCH 1996 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ JANUARY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ APRIL 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ JULY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ OCTOBER 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ APRIL 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ JULY 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ OCTOBER 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ WINTER 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ APRIL 1996 *INSIDE WRESTLING*

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
**LONDON PUBLISHING CO.**
**P.O. BOX 910**
**FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034**

Please send me the special editions of WRESTLER and INSIDE WRESTLING I've checked.

I am enclosing $_____ as payment in full.

In case of sellout, indicate substitute choice:_____

**PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY**

Name _____

Address_____ Apt. _____

City_____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be delivered by ground and $3 for every back issue to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4322/06-96

# arena reports

**The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.**

## UNITED STATES

### CALIFORNIA

**HAYWARD**—All-Pro Wrestling at the Pacific Coast Sports Gym: **Bill Calhoun** beat **Rick Turner** ... **Kuame Kamoze** defeated **Chris Cole** ... **Michael Modest** & **Steve Rizzono** defeated **Mike Diamond** & **Robert Thompson** ... **Vic Grimes** beat **Donovan Morgan** ... **Super Diablo** beat **Frank Dalton**.
(12-14-96)

*—Kelly St. James*

**BAKERSFIELD**—Slammers Wrestling Federation at Strongbow Stadium: Heavyweight champion **Jeff Lindberg** beat **Joy Boy** ... **Hombre de Oro** defeated **El Toro Bravo** ... **The Samoan Kid** beat **El Espirito** ... **Tyrone Little** defeated **Mike Ehrhardt** ... **Jesus Zapata** beat **Pete Malloy** by disqualification.
(12-12-96)

*—Gregg John*

### CONNECTICUT

**NEW BRITAIN**—Int'l Pro Wrestling at the Sports Palace: **The Punisher** beat **Sweet Pea Simpson** ... **The Bad Boys** defeated **TNT** & **White Trash** ... ***Semifinal round of the tournament for the vacant heavyweight title:*** **Dave Powers** beat **Frank Stalletto** ... **Brick Bronsky** pinned **Julio Sanchez** ... ***Final round:*** Bronsky pinned Powers to win the title ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **Boo Bradley** ... **Doug Flex** defeated **The Masked Mutilator** when he paid Mutilator to allow him to pin him ... **Rocco Rock** pinned **Dean Powers** ... **Lumberjack Rick Fuller** defeated **The Convict** ... **911** beat heavyweight champ **Brick Bronsky** in a non-title first-blood match.
(11-30-96)

*—Timothy A. Walker & Michael J. DiMuzio*

### FLORIDA

**WEST PALM BEACH**—WWF In Your House XII pay-per-view at the West Palm Beach Auditorium: ***Matches not shown on the pay-per-view:*** **Rocky Maivia** defeated **Salvatore Sincere** (with **Jim Cornette**) by disqualification when Cornette interfered ... **Braccus** defeated **Dr. X** ... **Steve Austin** pinned **Goldust** after **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** interfered and attacked both men ... **Shawn Michaels** pinned **Mankind** ... ***Pay-per-view matches:*** **Flash Funk** beat **Leif Cassidy** ... World tag team champions **Owen Hart** & **Davey Boy Smith** defeated **The New Diesel** & **The New Razor Ramon** when Smith pinned Razor ... **Marc Mero** (with **Sable**) defeated Intercontinental champion **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by countout after **Goldust** interfered ... **The Undertaker** beat **The Executioner** in an Armageddon match ... World champion **Sid Vicious** pinned **Bret Hart**.
(12-15-96)

*—Bill Apter*

### GEORGIA

**CARTERSVILLE**—Power Slam Wrestling at Gabby's: **John Arden** beat **Mr. Five** ... **Billy Love** defeated **Keith Arden** by disqualification ... **Jack Victory** (not the original) beat **T. Rex** ... **Kenny Arden** beat **Pretty Boy** ... **Sunset Sam** beat **Bo LaDue**.
(12-06-96)

*—Bill Needham*

**GAINESVILLE**—*WCW Saturday Night* taping at the Georgia Mountains Center: **David Sammartino** beat **Rex King** ... **Chris Jericho** defeated **D.R. Sarge** ... **The Amazing French Canadians** beat **Scott** & **Steve Armstrong** ... **Kevin Sullivan** beat **Prince Iaukea** ... **Jeff Jarrett** beat **Johnny Blintz** ... **Meng** & **The Barbarian** defeated **High Voltage** ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page** beat **Squire David Taylor** ... TV champ **Lord Steven Regal** wrestled to a time-limit draw with **Arn Anderson** ... Cruiserweight champion **Dean Malenko** beat **Billy Kidman** ... **The Renegade** & **Joe Gomez** defeated **High Voltage** ... **Jeff Jarrett** beat **Larry Santo** ... **Dallas Page** defeated **Rex King** ... **Meng** & **The Barbarian** beat **Roadblock** & **Ron Studd** ... TV champ **Lord Steven Regal** beat **Hugh Morris** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** defeated **Squire David Taylor**.
(12-04-96)

*—Harold Dunkirk*

**McCAYSVILLE**—North Georgia Wrestling Alliance at the Ryder Auditorium: **Scott Prater** beat **Kenny D** ... **Dusty Dotson** beat **Fabulous Frank** ... **Team Extreme** defeated **Bobby Hayes** & **Rick Justice** ... **Nasty Critter** defeated **Jason Valentine** ... **Dusty Dotson** won a 10-man battle royal.
(11-29-96)

*—Bill Needham*

### ILLINOIS

**CHICAGO**—WWF at the Rosemont Horizon: **Doug Furnas** & **Phil Lafon** beat **The New Razor** & **Diesel** ... **Crush** defeated **Savio Vega** ... **Ahmed Johnson** wrestled **Goldust** to a no-contest ... World champion **Sid Vicious** beat **Mankind** ... **Faarooq** defeated **Marc Mero** ... **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** & **Bart Gunn** defeated **Owen Hart, Davey Boy Smith,** & **Justin Bradshaw** ... **The Undertaker** beat Intercontinental champ **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by disqualification ... **Big Van Vader** & **Steve Austin** beat **Bret Hart** & **Shawn Michaels**.
(12-26-96)

*—Aaron Hawley*

**CHICAGO**—Windy City Wrestling at the Rowan Park Fieldhouse: **Ivan Urkoff** pinned **Terry Allen** ... **Armed Forces** beat **Thug Nation** ... Middleweight champ **Brett Sanders** pinned **Ripper Manson** ... League champ **Turbo** beat **Wolverine** by disqualification ... Heavyweight champ **Mike Samson** pinned light heavyweight champ **Brandon Bishop** ... **Frank Melson** & **Bulldozer Rollins** beat **Mike Anthony** & **Steve Boz** to win the tag team title.
(12-07-96)

*—Steve Cain*

**BRIDGEVIEW**—Windy City Wrestling at the Rec Center: **Terry Allen** pinned **Ivan Urkoff**... **Ripper Manson** pinned **Blue Thunder** ... **Severance** pinned **Wolverine** ... Middleweight champ **Brett Sanders** beat **Mike Anthony** ... Lightweight champ **Brandon Bishop** beat **Steve Boz** ... Tag team champs **The Wrecking Crew** wrestled **Bad Influence** to a double-disqualification.
(12-13-96)

*—Steve Cain*

### INDIANA

**HAMMOND**—Windy City Wrestling at the Civic Center: **Blue Thunder** beat **Barry Sawyer** by disqualification ... **Armed Forces** beat **Thug Nation** ... Middleweight champ **Brett Sanders** pinned **Ripper Manson** ... **Brandon Bishop** & **Terry Allen** beat **Severance** & **Ivan Urkoff** ... **Steve Boz** pinned **Turbo** to win the league title ... **Bad Influence** wrestled tag team champs **The Wrecking Crew** to a double-countout ... **Mike Anthony** beat **Mike Samson** to win the heavyweight title in a best-of-three-falls, no-disqualification match ... **Steve Boz** won a battle royal.
(12-14-96)

*—Steve Cain*

### MARYLAND

**BALTIMORE**—Mid-Eastern Wrestling Federa-

tion at the Teamster Auditorium: **The Cat Burglar** beat **The Bodacious Pretty Boy** ... **The Samoan Gangsta Tribe** beat **Darkside** ... **Joe Thunder** pinned **Lucifer** ... Light heavyweight champ **Adam Flash** wrestled **Quinn Nash** to a double-disqualification ... **Knuckles Zandwich** & **Ralph Soto** beat **Earl the Pearl** & **Johnny Desire** ... **Mark Schrader** beat **Devon Storm** ... **Corporal Punishment** beat **Pablo Marquez** ... **Jimmy Cicero** pinned **Jason Knight** ... MEWF champ **Axl Rotten** beat **Mark Schrader**.
(12-27-96)

*—Michael J. DiMuzio*

**BALTIMORE**—MEWF at the Teamster Auditorium: **Quinn Nash** pinned **Earl the Pearl** ... **Jason Knight** beat **Joe Thunder** ... **Bob Starr** beat **Johnny Taylor** ... **Knuckles Zandwich** beat **The Cat Burglar** by submission ... **Jimmy Cicero** defeated Mid-Atlantic champ **Boo Bradley** to win the title ... **Darkside** beat **The Samoan Gangsta Tribe** ... **Corporal Punishment** pinned **Johnny Desire** .. **Chris Candido** beat **Mark Schrader** ... **Adam Flash** pinned light heavyweight champ **Steve Corino** to win the title ... **Raven, Stevie Richards,** & **The Blue Meanie** beat **The Freaks of Nature** & **Axl Rotten**.
(12-01-96)

*—Michael J. DiMuzio*

## MASSACHUSETTS

**CHELSEA**—Century Wrestling Alliance at the Armory: **El Mascarado** beat **Tombstone** by disqualification ... **Maverick Wild** defeated **Jose Valenzuela** ... **Curtis Slamdawgg** beat **The Mercenary** ... **Rick Fuller** beat **Danny Justice** ... New England champ **Tony Rumble** beat **Sheik Mohammad Hussein** by disqualification ... **Joel Davis** beat **The Singapore Slayer** ... Light heavyweight champ **The Pink Assassin** defeated **Paul Zine** ... **Vic Steamboat** beat TV champ **Knuckles Nelson** by disqualification ... **Colt Majors** defeated **The Prankster** ... **Dungeon Master** defeated **Tony Atlas**.
(12-06-96)

*—Rich Palladino*

**LOWELL**—WWF at the Memorial Auditorium: **Braccus** beat **Mr. X** ... **Doug Furnas** & **Phil Lafon** beat **Leif Cassidy** & **Marty Jannetty** ... **The Sultan** beat **Jesse James** ... **Savio Vega** beat **Salvatore Sincere** ... **Marc Mero** defeated Intercontinental champ **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by disqualification ... **The New Razor Ramon** & **The New Diesel** beat **The Grimm Twins** ... **Billy Gunn** beat **Bart Gunn** ... **Shawn Michaels** defeated **Goldust**.
(11-30-96)

*—Samantha Wilkes*

## MICHIGAN

**ROSEVILLE**—Insane Championship Wrestling at the Palladium Music Club: **Tex Monroe** beat **Rick Matrix** in a steel cage to win the Midwest heavyweight title ... **Sex** & **Violence** beat **The Skinheads** by countout ... **The American Kickboxer** beat **El Perro** and **Rick Wilde** in a triangle match ... **Death Wolf** defeated **Tony Smalls** to advance in the brass knuckles tournament ... **Alexis Machine** pinned **Professor Maxwell** to advance in the brass knux tournament ... **Bones** beat **Rick Hernandez** by disqualification ... **Jimi V** pinned **Brian Fury**.
(12-22-96)

*—Mike Peron*

## NEW JERSEY

**BAYONNE**—Pro Wrestling USA at the HS: **Jason Knight** wrestled **Larry Brisco** to a draw ... **Cousin Luke** beat **H.D. Rider** ... **Smokin' Joe** beat **The Metal Maniac** ... **Tommy Cairo** defeated **Derek Domino** ... **Demolition Ax** pinned **Mike Sharpe** ... **Tito Santana** beat **Bob Orton** ... **The Bushwhackers** beat **The Assassins**.
(12-07-96)

*—Michael J. DiMuzio*

**MOUNT HOLLY**—NWA at the High School: **Beach Bully** beat **Billy Reade** ... **Don Montoya** beat **Rik Ratchet** in a dog-collar match ... **Reckless Youth** defeated **Dave Keller** ... **Gus the Greek** beat **Rocco Dorsey** ... **The Great Martini** beat **Frankie Burns** ... **The Lost Boys** defeated **Downward Spiral** to win the U.S. tag team title ... **The Inferno Kid** defeated **Billy Real** ... **Icon** defeated **Ken Porter** ... **Ace Darling** defeated **Ralph Soto**.
(12-07-96)

*—Mike Keener*

## NEW YORK

**UNIONDALE**—WWF at the Nassau Coliseum: **Doug Furnas** & **Phil Lafon** beat **The New Razor Ramon** & **Diesel** ... **Faarooq** beat **Savio Vega** ... **Ahmed Johnson** defeated **Crush** by disqualification ... **Goldust** beat **Jake Roberts** ... **Shawn Michaels** wrestled **Steve Austin** to a double-countout ... **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** & **Bart Gunn** defeated **Owen Hart, Davey Boy Smith,** & **Justin Bradshaw** ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Big Van Vader** by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **Marc Mero** ... World champ **"Psycho" Sid Vicious** beat **Mankind**.
(12-27-96)

*—Donna Deeney*

**BROOKLYN**—ESW at Carnarsie HS: **Darkside** wrestled **The Rhino Powers** to a double-countout ... **Duke Snyder** beat **The Black Sultan** ... **The Italian Sensation** pinned **Steve Corino** ... **Kid U.S.A.** beat **Jimmy Cicero** by reverse decision ... **Jason Knight** & **Leigh Meyer** wrestled **Abbudah Singh** & **Paul Tino** to a double-disqualification ... **Jimmy Snuka** pinned **Metal Maniac** ... **Spellbinder** won a battle royal.
(12-14-96)

*—Michael J. DiMuzio*

**BROOKLYN**—UCW at the Showboat: **Pharaoh** & **Black Sheep** defeated **Guillotine Legrand** & **Kamikaze Kid** ... **Matty Smalls** wrestled **Teddy Reade** to a double-countout ... **Jimmy Deranged** beat **Mike Norman** ... **Chucky** defeated **Tiger Khan** by disqualification ... **Shark Attack Kid** beat **Paul Lauria** ... **Doc** & **Jesse Havoc** beat **Blitzkreig** & **Crazy Ivan** ... **Falcon Coperis** & **Tatanka** beat **Andre Baker** & **Jim Neidhart**.
(12-07-96)

*—Shannon Tyler*

**SYRACUSE**—WWF at the On Center: **Shawn Michaels** beat **Goldust** ... **Marc Mero** beat Intercontinental champ **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by disqualification ... **Billy Gunn** beat **Bart Gunn** ... **The New Razor Ramon** & **The New Diesel** beat **Jared Grimm** & **Tom Prichard** ... **Savio Vega** defeated **Salvatore Sincere** ... **Doug Furnas** & **Phil Lafon** beat **The New Rockers** ... **The Sultan** pinned **Jesse James** **Armstrong** ... **Brakus** beat **Dr. X**.
(12-07-96)

*—Mark Roberts*

*(Continued on page 50)*


**WANNA BE A WRESTLER?**
PHONE 904-934-8435
**SKULLKRUSHERS WRESTLING SCHOOL**
TEACHERS*EXOTIC ADRIAN+MISSLINDA

| | |
|---|---|
| WRESTLING MASKS | $15 |
| SPANDEX TIGHTS | $45 |
| SPANDEX TRUNKS | $30 |
| SPANDEX LEOTARDS | $40 |

STATE WAIST-INSIDE LEG SIZE+COLOR CHOICE

| | |
|---|---|
| SKULLKRUSHER T-SHIRTS | $10 |
| SKULLKRUSHER TANK TOPS | $10 |
| SKULLKRUSHER SWEATSHIRT | $15 |

ADULT AND KIDS SIZE AVAILABLE

| | |
|---|---|
| WRESTLING VIDEOS | $15 |

SEND $1 P.AND H. FOR NEW COMPLETE LIST
BOOTS*GOWNS*BELTS*LEOTARDS*TIGHTS
TRUNKS*KNEE-PADS*ELBOW PADS
PLUS LADY WRESTLERS AND KIDS WEAR
SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PLUS $3 POSTAGE + HANDLING ON ALL ORDERS TO BIZARE BAZZAR
P.O.BOX 6188.GULF BREEZE FL 32561

NAME _____ *
ADDRESS _____ *
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ *

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BIZARE BAZZAR
FOR THE WORLDS BEST WRESTLING WEAR



**$ MAKE BIG MONEY IN PRO WRESTLING $**

Whether you want to be in the wrestling spotlight or make money behind the scenes, this book was written for you!! Co-authored by wrestling superstars **KING KONG BUNDY** and **"PRETTY BOY" LARRY SHARPE, HITTIN' THE MAT** contains everything you need to know to prepare for a wrestling or non-wrestling career in this exciting business. **GUARANTEED!** Whether you want to make money in the wrestling industry or just enjoy watching, this book is a must! Act now and receive the following **FREE** bonuses:

1. Autographed, personalized picture of **KING KONG BUNDY** and **"PRETTY BOY" LARRY SHARPE.**

2. Informative guide describing dozens of non-wrestling positions.

3. Money-saving coupons for wrestling publications, training, equipment, memorabilia and more.

Only $12.95 + $2 S/H
(Add $5 outside U.S.)

**DON'T WAIT! ORDER TODAY!**

Send to:
**HITTIN' THE MAT**
704 BROADWAY, #188A
MANTUA, NJ 08051

# arena reports

(Continued from page 49)

## NORTH CAROLINA

**MOUNT AIRY**—AIWF at Veterans Park: The match between **Cyclone** and **Aries** was declared a no-contest when **The Tennessee Violence Authority** interfered and attacked both men ... **J.T. Sledge** & **The Stallion** defeated **Dr. Love** & **The Scorpion** ... **Johnny Reb** beat **Diamond Dave** ... **Brian Danzig** defeated U.S. champ **Major Breakinridge** by disqualification ... **The Ghost Riders** defeated **Neil Leathers** & **King Cobra** and **Bad Brad** & **Jumpin' Jimmy** in a triangle match ... **Rick Deezel** beat **Major Havoc** in a ladder match to become the first TV champ ... **Dynamite Doug** beat AIWFchamp **Don Carson** to win the title.
(12-28-96)

*—Dean Puckett*

**FOREST CITY**—PWF at the Armory: **Flaming Youth** beat **Bulldog** ... Junior heavyweight champ **Madd Maxxine** beat **Wasted Youth** ... Eastern States champ **Terry Austin** beat **Black Angel** ... PWF champ **Italian Stallion** defeated **George South**.
(12-27-96)

*—Brock Chandler*

**CHARLOTTE**—PWF at the Grady Cole Center: **Black Angel** defeated **The Black Dragon** ... **Firebreaker Chip** beat **Dr. Feelgood** ... **Terry Austin** beat **Chief Crazy Horse** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Samoan Gangsta Party** ... **Men on a Mission** beat tag team champs **The International Death Squad** to win the belts ... **Italian Stallion** beat heavyweight champ **George South** to win the title.
(12-15-96)

*—Brock Chandler*

**ROCKINGHAM**—Mid-Atlantic Championship Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Willie Clay** & **Madd Maxx** beat **One Man Posse** & **Mike Maverick** ... **Grave Digger** wrestled **The Dream Warrior** to a double-disqualification ... **Rick Link** beat **Simba** ... **Billy Simmons** beat **Pez Whatley** ... **Bambi** beat **Peggy Lee Leather** ... **Ron Studd** defeated **Kevin Kirby** ... **The Patriot** beat **The Iron Sheik**.
(12-14-96)

*—Dan Parris*

**WILMINGTON**—ICW/NWC at the Country Place Resource Center for the Mentally Handicapped: **Agent Steel** beat **Youth Gone Wild** ... **Chris Anderson** beat **Brad Smith** ... **Fury** defeated **California Condor** to win the ICW light heavyweight title ... **Rage** beat NWC champ **D.C. Queen** to win the title ... **Major Justice** defeated ICW champ **Marc Ash** in a non-title bout.
(12-14-96)

*—John Connor*

**CONCORD**—Carolina Championship Wrestling at the Hartsell School Gym: **David Osbourne** beat **Nick of Time** ... **Grave Digger** defeated **Dr. Dreadd** ... **Tim Jackson**, **Will Shooter**, & **Sweet Dreams** beat **Killer Force I**, **Leon El Gigante**, & **Grunge Master** ... **Tony Hunter** beat **Mr. Franklin** ... **Dream Warrior** defeated **Rick Link** ... **Speedy Gonzales** & **Rick Slagle** defeated **Gary Royal** & **L.A. Stephens** ... **The Big Cheese**, **David Isley**, **Colt Steele**, & **Madd Maxx** beat **The Cannon**, **Ron Studd**, **One Man Posse**, & **Star Ryder**.
(12-07-96)

*—Dan Parris*

## OHIO

**MANSFIELD**—ASWA at the Commerce Center: **Micro Menace** wrestled **Roger Ruffan** to a draw ... **Isha Dekimasu** pinned **Ricky Mild** ... **Chris Harris** & **Lou Marconi** beat **Lumberin' Jack** & **Chip Endale** ... **The Prince of Polyester** pinned **Erik Starr** ... **Bo Dacious** pinned **Thunder Morgan** to win the ASWA title ... **Jimmie Lee** pinned **Kid Collins** in a barbed-wire match to win the light heavyweight title.
(12-21-96)

*—Jeff Gorman*

## PENNSYLVANIA

**DOWNINGTOWN**—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the Farmers' Market: **Chris Candido** beat **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **Louie Spicolli** defeated **B. Mahoney** ... **Spike** & **Bubba Ray Dudley** beat **The Bad Crew** ... **The Gangstas** beat **D-Von Dudley** & **Axl Rotten** ... **Stevie Richards** pinned **G.Q. Quartermain** ... Tag team champs **The Eliminators** beat **Rob Van Dam** & **Sabu** ... **Pit Bull II** pinned **Brian Lee** ... ECW champ **Raven** beat **The Sandman** ... **Tommy Dreamer** & **Beulah McGillicutty** beat **Shane Douglas** & **Francine**.
(12-27-96)

*—Bart Orkline*

**DOWNINGTOWN**—ECW at the Farmers Market: **Axl Rotten** beat **Spike Dudley** ... **G.Q. Gorgeous Quartermain** beat **Roadkill** ... **Chris Candido** beat **Super Nova** ... **The Eliminators** defeated **Little Guido** & **David Jericho** ... **Taz** wrestled **Rob Van Dam** to a no-contest ... **Bubba Ray Dudley** beat **D-Von Dudley** ... **Pit Bull II** beat **Rick Rage** ... TV champ **Shane Douglas** beat **Tommy Dreamer** ... Heavyweight champ **The Sandman** defeated **Raven**.
(11-29-96)

*—Peter Orlansky*

**READING**—Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling at Stokesay Castle: **Ace Darling** & **Mark Mest** defeated tag team champs **Double Delight** to win the title ... **Lance Diamond** pinned **Pat Shamrock** ... **Little Louie** pinned **King Sleazy** ... **Maxx Crimson** beat **Boogie Woogie Brown** by disqualification ... **Lance Diamond** won the new PCW Americas title by winning a reverse battle royal cage match ... **Mr. Ooh La La** defeated **Troy Mest** ... **Jacques Bonet** pinned **Dave Patera** ... PCW champ **Freight Train Jones** beat **Chef D.Z. Gillespie** ... **Julio Sanchez** beat **Cheetah Master** ... **Vinnie Biondo** beat **Romeo Catino**.
(12-27-96)

*—Nicholas Kemp*

**HERMINIE**—Pro Wrestling Express at the HSi: **Scott Vemon** pinned **John Doe** ... **The Xtreme Militia** beat **The Jester** & **Bonecrusher** to regain the WWO tag team title ... **Big Daddy Adams** pinned **Bubba the Bulldog** ... **J.B. Destiny** & **Dennis Gregory** beat **Stevie Richards** & **The Blue Meanie** to win the PWX tag team belts ... North American champ **Lou Marconi** beat **Paul Atlas** ... PWX champ **Brian Anthony** beat **Dudley Dudley** by disqualification ... **T. Rantula** pinned **Leviathan** in the bleachers to win a falls-count-anywhere match.
(12-14-96)

*—Jeff Gorman*

**NORTH VERSAILLES**—PWX at the Wrestleplex: **Masahiro Panic** beat **Big Daddy Adams** by countout ... **Jester** & **Bonecrusher** beat **The Xtreme Militia** to win the WWO tag team title ... **Leviathan** defeated **The Black Cat** by disqualification ... Steel City Wrestling tag team champs **Stevie Richards** & **The Blue Meanie** beat PWX tag team champs **The Giant Hillbillies** to win the belts in a title vs. title match ... **Bonecrusher** wrestled **Jakal** to a no-contest ... **Shane Douglas** beat **J.B. Destiny** ... **Paul Atlas** beat North American champ **Lou Marconi** by disqualification ... Heavyweight champ **Brian Anthony** defeated **T. Rantula** by disqualification.
(12-13-96)

*—Jeff Gorman*

**PHILADELPHIA**—ECW at the ECW Arena: **Spike** & **Bubba Ray Dudley** defeated **David Jericho** & **Little Guido** ... **B. Mahoney** defeated **Devon Storm** ... **Gary Albright** defeated **Rick Rage** ... **Brian Lee** beat **Louie Spicolli** ... **Taz** defeated **Rob Van Dam** ... Tag team champions **The Gangstas** defeated **D-Von Dudley** & **Axl Rotten** ... **Shane Douglas** & **Francine** beat **Tommy Dreamer** & **Beulah McGillicutty** in a mixed tag team match ... **Sabu** beat **Perry Saturn** ... **Raven** defeated ECW champ **The Sandman** in a barbed-wire match to win the title.
(12-07-96)

*—Jake Armando*

## RHODE ISLAND

**PROVIDENCE**—WWF at the Civic Center: **Doug Furnas** & **Phil Lafon** beat **The New Razor Ramon** & **Diesel** ... **Faarooq** defeated **Savio Vega** ... **Ahmed Johnson** beat **Crush** by disqualification ... **Goldust** beat **Jake Roberts** ... Intercontinental champ **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** defeated **Marc Mero** ... **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** & **Bart Gunn** defeated **Owen Hart**, **Davey Boy Smith**, & **Justin Bradshaw** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Big Van Vader** by disqualification ... **Shawn Michaels** beat **Steve Austin** ... World champ **Sid Vicious** beat **Mankind**.
(12-28-96)

*—Pamela Arla*

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**GAFFNEY**—PWF at the Armory: **Black Angel** defeated **Dr. Feelgood** ... **Black Dragon** beat **Wasted Youth** ... **Overlord Blade** beat **The Body Adonis** ... **Italian Stallion** & **Chief Crazy Horse** beat **George South** & **Madd Maxxine**.
(12-28-96)

*—Brock Chandler*

**CLINTON**—Southern Championship Wrestling "Toys For Tots" benefit card at the National Guard Armory: **Denny Cooley** beat **The Rus-**

(Continued on page 52)

IT'S THE ONE BOOK EVERY WRESTLING FAN'S GOTTA HAVE!

# The 1997 PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING ALMANAC!

## THIS DIGEST-SIZED CHUNK OF HISTORY HAS IT ALL! WE'RE TALKING 196 PAGES OF REFERENCE MATERIAL! UPDATED! CHOCK-FULL OF NEW INFORMATION!

- **Statistics for hundreds of wrestlers worldwide!**
- **Comprehensive title histories of the sport's top championships–active and inactive!**
- **Results of every pay-per-view cards, non-PPV supercard, and Clash of Champions!**
- **Analysis of the 10 biggest news stories of 1996!**
- **Complete listing of all six "*PWI* 500s"!**
- **A comprehensive directory of promotional organizations!**
- **And much, much more!**

## IT'S THE *ULTIMATE* WRESTLING PUBLICATION!

**ON SALE FEBRUARY 18 AT NEWSSTANDS EVERYWHERE!**

4419/12-96

# arena reports

(Continued from page 50)

**sian Assassin** ... **Kid Dynamite** beat **Sgt. Jack Renegade** ... **Cruiser Lewis** beat **J.W. Steele** ... **Mikki Free** wrestled **Madd Maxx Miles** to a draw ... **Brodie Chase** & **Mike Hart** beat **Mikki Free** & **Madd Maxx Miles** ... **Jimmy Valiant** defeated **Jim Studd** ... **Johnny Dollar** & **The Freedom Fighter** beat **The Nightmare** & **J.J. Justice** in a coal miner's glove match ... **The Desperado** defeated **Jake Mulligan** ... **The Desperado** beat **Johnny Love.**
(12-13-96)

*—Dan Parris*

## TENNESSEE

**NASHVILLE**—WCW Starrcade '96 pay-per-view at the Municipal Auditorium: **Ultimo Dragon** defeated cruiserweight champion **Dean Malenko** to win the title (Ultimo Dragon now holds nine different titles) ... **Akira Hokuto** (with **Sonny Ono** & **Kensuke Sasaki**, Hokuto's husband) pinned **Madusa** in the finals of the tournament for the new WCW World Women's title after Ono interfered ... **Jushin Liger** pinned **Rey Misterio Jr.** ... **Jeff Jarrett** pinned **Chris Benoit** (with **Woman**) after **Kevin Sullivan** hit Benoit with a chair ... World tag team champions **Scott Hall** & **Kevin Nash** beat **The Barbarian** & **Meng** when Nash pinned The Barbarian after a power bomb ... **Eddy Guerrero** defeated **"Diamond" Dallas Page** in the finals of the tournament for the vacant U.S. title after **Scott Hall**, **Kevin Nash**, and **Six** interfered and attacked Page. After the match, Hall, Nash, and Six attacked Guerrero ... **Lex Luger** pinned **The Giant** after **Nick Patrick**, **Six**, and **Sting** interfered ... **Roddy Piper** beat World champion **Hulk Hogan** (with **Ted DiBiase**) with a sleeperhold in a non-title match.
(12-29-96)

*—Bill Apter*

**MEMPHIS**—USWA at the Big One Expo Center: **Blaze** beat **Tony Falk** ... **Kareem Olajuwon** defeated **Brickhouse Brown** ... USWA tag team champions **Steven Dunn** & **Flash Flanagan** wrestled **Vic the Bruiser** & **Mike Samples** to a no-contest ... **J.C. Ice** wrestled **Bill Dundee** to a draw ... Southern champion **Wolfie D** defeated **Brian Christopher** ... USWA champ **Jerry Lawler** defeated **Akeem Muhammad** ... **Brian Christopher**, **Jerry Lawler**, **Brickhouse Brown**, **Mabel**, **Steven Dunn**, & **Bill Dundee** defeated **Akeem Muhammad**, **Kareem Olajuwon**, **Wolfie D**, **Sir Mo**, **Don Bass**, & **J.C. Ice** in a concession stand brawl.
(12-27-96)

*—Mark Mitchell*

**FALL BRANCH**—SSW at the Sampson Center: **Iceman** beat **Denny Cooley** ... **Johnny Thunder** pinned **Mike Cooper** ... **Jimmy Valiant** beat **Major DeBeers** in a loser-leaves-the-federation match .. **War Machine** & **Beau James** beat **Mike Cooper** & **Iceman** ... Appalachian champ **Beau James** defeated **War Machine.**
(12-20-96)

*—Fay Ferguson*

**KNOXVILLE**—Tennessee Mountain Wrestling at the Holston HS: **Chris Steelheart** beat light TMW champ **Eddie Golden** in a non-title match ... **Dr. Dan** & **The Orderly** beat **Mike Powers** & **Big Bubba** ... **Bounty Hunter Freedom** beat **Eight-Ball Jones** ... **Tracey Smothers** beat **The Mongolian Stomper** by disqualification ... **Tony Anthony** won a battle royal.
(12-07-96)

*—Bill Needham*

## TEXAS

**SAN ANTONIO**—Southwest Championship Wrestling at the El Torito Sportatorium: **The British Baron** beat **Iron Eagle** ... **Rudy Boy** beat **Bull Ramos Jr.** ... **The Viking** wrestled **Juan Reynosa** to a double-disqualification ... **Mr. Wrestling III** wrestled **Bobby Perez** to a draw.
(11-29-96)

*—Brett Wolfe*

## VIRGINIA

**WOODBRIDGE**—Independent card at the Total Sports Pavilion: **Corporal Punishment** pinned **Earl the Pearl** ... **Axl Rotten**, **Chris Stevenson**, & **The Freaks of Nature** defeated **Cueball Carmichael**, **Sean Powers**, & **Darkside** ... **Steve Corino** beat **Joey Matthews** ... **Mark Schrader** pinned **Sheik Ali Amin** ... **The Gangstas** defeated **The Blue Meanie** & **Stevie Richards.**
(12-08-96)

*—Michael J. DiMuzio*

## WEST VIRGINIA

**BECKLEY**—Southern States Wrestling at the Armory: **Denny Cooley** beat **Danny Christian** ... **Dan Cooley** beat **Beau James** by disqualification ... **The Juicer** (not the original) & **Johnny Thunder** beat **K.C. Thunder** & **Iceman** ... **War Machine** pinned Appalachian champ **Beau James** to win the title ... Heavyweight champ **K.C. Thunder** beat **Jimmy Valiant.**
(12-21-96)

*—Fay Ferguson*

# INTERNATIONAL

**LAVALTRIE, QUEBEC**—Northern Championship Wrestling at the Super 2000-Plus Flea Market: **Frank Blues** beat **Mike the Fan Boy** ... **Esel Krap** beat **The Nightmare** and **The Gentleman** in a triangle match ... **Dream Killer** defeated **El Diablero** & **Ivan the Terrible** by disqualification in a handicap match ... **Marc the Grizzly**, **The Ninja**, & **The Nightmare** beat **The Sweet Boys** & **Alexander the Magnificent** ... **The Sweet Boys** co-won a battle royal ... **Iceman** beat **Golem the Giant** to win the Quebec title.
(12-13-96)

*—Bertrand Hebert*

**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**—CWF at Chalmers Community Club: **The Ironman** beat **The Double Dragons** in a handicap match ... **Chad Ripley** beat **Spice Richards** by disqualification ... **Brian Jewel** pinned **Steve Stryker** ... **Caveman Broda** & **Jackie Youngblood** beat **Vance Nevada** & **Dave Levinsky** ... North American champ **Robby Royce** beat **Bugsy Sluggliano** by disqualification.
(12-05-96)

*—Verne May*

## ENGLAND

**BIRMINGHAM**—WWF at the N.E.C.: **The Executioner** defeated **Barry Horowitz** ... **Barry Windham** beat **Justin Bradshaw** ... **Crush** defeated **Bob Holly** ... **Rocky Maivia** defeated **T.L. Hopper** ... **Bret Hart** beat **Mankind** ... **Steve Austin** beat **Aldo Montoya** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Big Van Vader** ... World tag team champs **Owen Hart** & **Davey Boy Smith** defeated **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** ... World champion **Sid Vicious** defeated **Faarooq.**
(11-28-96)

*—Claire Barnaby*

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**DUBAI**—WWF one-night King of the Ring tournament at the Al Ahli Sports Club: ***First round:*** **Bret Hart** beat **Davey Boy Smith** ... **Faarooq** wrestled **Big Van Vader** to a double-countout ... **The Undertaker** beat **Mankind** ... **Steve Austin** defeated **Owen Hart** ... ***Second round:*** Austin defeated Undertaker by disqualification (Bret Hart received a bye) ... ***Finals:*** Hart defeated Austin to win the tournament.
(12-02-96)

*—Charles Newirth*

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY JANUARY

## FLORIDA

**MIAMI**—NWA at the Marine Stadium: **Jack Brisco** & **Tim Woods** defeated **Bobby Shane** & **Bearcat Wright** ... **Paul Jones** defeated **The Great Malenko** ... **Wee Willie Wilson** beat **Billy the Kid** ... **Ron Fuller** beat **Bob Griffin** ... **Bob Roop** beat **Mike Webster** ... **Ronnie Garvin**, **Great Mephisto**, & **J.C. Dykes** beat **Louie Tillet** & **Johnny Walker** in a handicap match.
(05-03-72)

*—PWI archives*

## NEW YORK

**NEW YORK**—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: In a best-of-three-falls match, **Bruno Sammartino** & **Victor Rivera** beat **Killer Kowalski** & **Prof. Tanaka** ... **Haystacks Calhoun** beat **Bill Miller** ... **Sky Low Low** & **Little Brutus** beat **Pee Wee Russell** & **Cowboy Bradley** ... **Dominic DeNucci** defeated **Luke Graham** ... **Baron Scicluna** and **John L. Sullivan** wrestled to a draw ... **Bulldog Brower** defeated **Duke Savage** ... **Lou Albano** beat **Buster Gordon.**
(05-14-69)

*—PWI archives*

## OREGON

**PORTLAND**—Big Time Wrestling at the Sports Arena: **The Assassin** beat **Buddy Rose** by disqualification ... **Steve Doll** & **Scott Peterson** defeated **Steve Austin** & **C.W. Bergstrom** ... **Matt Borne** beat **The Grappler** ... **Al Madril** wrestled **Scott Peterson** to a draw .... **Mike Golden** beat **Art Barr** .... **Billy Two Eagles** and **Art Crews** wrestled to a draw.
(05-14-88)

*—PWI archives*

# JUST FOUND!

## BACK ISSUES OF THE ORIGINAL WCW MAGAZINE

Collectors agree that the early issues of WCW MAGAZINE were some of the most superb wrestling magazines ever published. Until recently, these magazines had been neatly stored in an air-controlled warehouse. Now, once again, they are available to the public!

**NOVEMBER 1991***
Cover: Steiners & Gigante
Poster: Lex Luger

**DECEMBER 1991***
Cover: Lex Luger
Poster: Sting

**JANUARY 1992***
Cover: Sting
Poster: Steve Austin & Lady Blossom

**FEBRUARY 1992***
Cover: Special Holiday Issue!
Poster: 1992 calendar/wrestlers' birthdays

**MARCH 1992***
Cover: 1991 awards/year in review
Poster: Dustin Rhodes

**JULY 1992***
Cover: Sting
Poster: Rick Rude

**AUGUST 1992***
Cover: Big Van Vader
Poster: Paul E. Dangerously dartboard

**SEPTEMBER 1992***
Cover: Nikita Koloff vs. Rick Rude
Poster: Rick Rude/Missy Hyatt

**OCTOBER 1992***
Cover: Williams & Gordy vs. Steiners
Poster: Barry Windham

**NOVEMBER 1992***
Cover: Ron Simmons
Poster: Madusa

**DECEMBER 1992***
Cover: Jake Roberts
Poster: Nikita Koloff

**JANUARY 1993***
Cover: Brian Pillman
Poster: Ron Simmons

**FEBRUARY 1993***
Cover: Starrcade '92
Poster: Sting

**MARCH 1993***
Cover: 1992 awards/year in review
Poster: 1993 calendar/WCW history

**APRIL 1993***
Cover: Rick Rude & Madusa
Poster: 2 Cold Scorpio

**JULY 1993***
Cover: Sting
Poster: Big Van Vader

**AUGUST 1993***
Cover: Sting & Smith vs. Vicious & Vader
Poster: Davey Boy Smith

**SEPTEMBER 1993***
Cover: Ric Flair & Fifi
Poster: Hollywood Blonds

**OCTOBER 1993***
Cover: War Games preview
Poster: Johnny B. Badd

**NOVEMBER 1993***
Cover: Halloween Havoc preview
Plus: Nastys, Rude, U.K. tour

**DECEMBER 1993***
Cover: Battle Bowl preview
Plus: Dustin, Horsemen, Clash

**JANUARY 1994**
Interview special: Nastys, Sting, Rude, Vader, Dustin

**FEBRUARY 1994**
Cover: Ric Flair
Plus: Steamboat, Havoc, Payne

**MARCH 1994**
Year-end awards: Flair, Vader, Rude, Bagwell & Scorpio, more!

**APRIL 1994**
Ric Flair special! Title win, interview, career timeline, more!

**MAY 1994**
Cover: Bobby Heenan's WCW Guide
Plus: Boss, Orndorff & Roma

**JUNE 1994**
Cover: Spring Stampede Preview
Plus: Simmons, Arn, Nastys, Badd

**JULY 1994**
Cover: Sting
Plus: Flair, Nastys, Vader-Jack

*** ALL SLICK, ALL COLOR!**

Please send me the back issues I have checked below. I have enclosed $5 check or money order for each copy ordered.

**WCW MAGAZINE**

- ❑ NOVEMBER 1991
- ❑ DECEMBER 1991
- ❑ JANUARY 1992
- ❑ FEBRUARY 1992
- ❑ MARCH 1992
- ❑ JULY 1992
- ❑ AUGUST 1992
- ❑ SEPTEMBER 1992
- ❑ OCTOBER 1992
- ❑ NOVEMBER 1992
- ❑ DECEMBER 1992
- ❑ JANUARY 1993
- ❑ FEBRUARY 1993
- ❑ MARCH 1993
- ❑ APRIL 1993
- ❑ JULY 1993
- ❑ AUGUST 1993
- ❑ SEPTEMBER 1993
- ❑ OCTOBER 1993
- ❑ NOVEMBER 1993
- ❑ DECEMBER 1993
- ❑ JANUARY 1994
- ❑ FEBRUARY 1994
- ❑ MARCH 1994
- ❑ APRIL 1994
- ❑ MAY 1994
- ❑ JUNE 1994
- ❑ JULY 1994

Supplies are limited, So don't delay- Order today!

Make check or money order payable to

**LONDON PUBLISHING CO.**
And send to:
**WCW BACK ISSUE DEPARTMENT**
**P.O. Box 910**
**Ft. Washington, PA 19034**

Name .....

Address ..... Apt. .....

City .....

State ..... Zip .....

Offer good in U.S. only. Canada and all other countries $7 per issue.
International money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4379/10-96

(Continued from page 5)

Jim Ross is still defending his decision to help bring The New Diesel and New Razor Ramon to the WWF. Reader Christy Faught thinks Ross is no longer trustworthy.

McMahon suggests that the only reason WCW is successful right now is because it can tap into an unlimited source of capital. He claims WCW is stealing the stars he created, and spending tremendous amounts of money to get them. But let's look back to the 1980s. McMahon offered wrestlers that were established in other territories (Roddy Piper, Hulk Hogan, Paul Orndorff, Rick Steamboat, Ted DiBiase, and others) a great deal of money to come to the WWF. That hurt the smaller promotions, most of which went out of business. Now McMahon feels like one of those smaller promotions because WCW is offering better contracts. Sound familiar?

Despite McMahon's claims to the contrary, WCW is a business in the Time Warner empire. As such, it is expected to make money. To do so, it is changing the playing field, just like McMahon did in the 1980s. McMahon can either keep up with the changes or fade away, but to hear him whine about it is laughable.

JIMMY REGAL
Clairmont, NH

## RIPPING ROSS

When Jim Ross announced Diesel and Razor Ramon were coming back to the WWF, I was ecstatic. Kevin Nash and Scott Hall were coming back, or so I thought. When it was time for them to return, I was glued to my TV screen, but then I saw two impostors come out. I experienced three emotions: disappointment, laughter, and finally rage. I had been deceived by Jim Ross and two guys who couldn't make a bump on Nash's or Hall's rump. Ross keeps going on about not trusting anyone who isn't from Texas. Well, truth be told, Ross is the one who cannot be trusted.

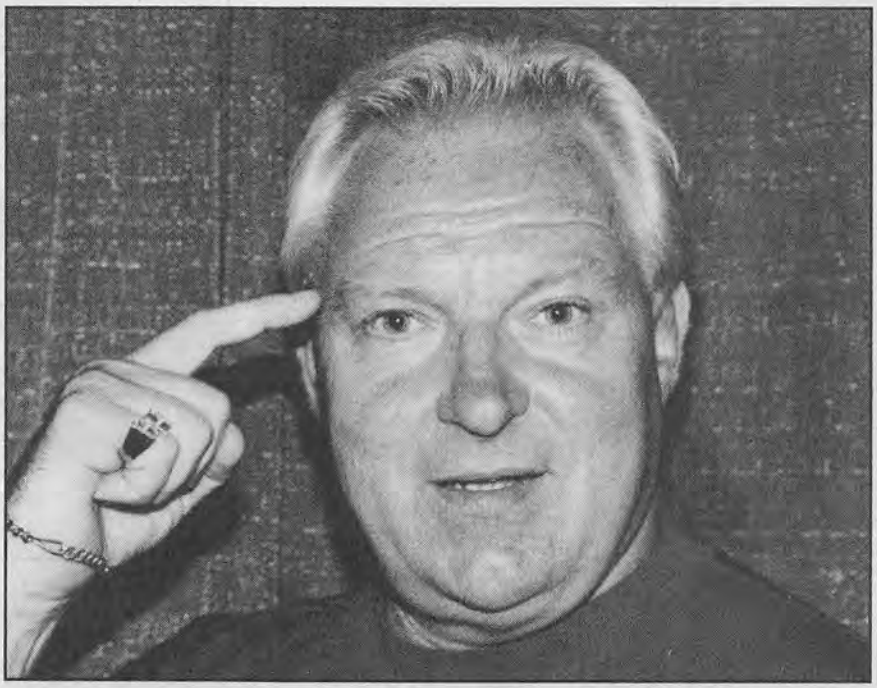
CHRISTY FAUGHT
Walnut Grove, MO

## HEENAN BEHIND NWO?

After doing some investigating, I have concluded that the man responsible for the New World Order is Bobby Heenan. On a 1991 WWF broadcast, Bobby Heenan held up the WCW World championship belt and announced that Ric Flair would be coming to destroy Hogan and take over the WWF.

Doesn't that sound familiar? Remember when Scott Hall interrupted a *WCW Monday Nitro* broadcast on Memorial Day to announce, "We are taking over." Bobby Heenan happened to be co-hosting the second hour of *Nitro* that night. Coincidence? I think not.

WAYNE ALEXANDER
Greenville, SC □

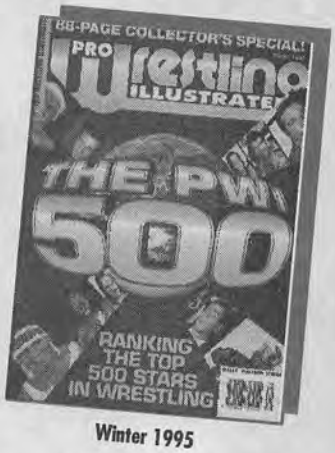


Bobby Heenan has been one of the harshest critics of the NWO during WCW telecasts. Reader Wayne Alexander, though, believes Heenan is secretly dealing with that group.

# THE SPECIAL ISSUES YOU GOTTA HAVE!

March 1992

**Year-end reviews! WrestleMania closeups! Insider polls! Anniversary celebrations! The incredible "PWI 500"! If you don't have these color-packed special issues in your collection, you are missing out—big-time! These massive chunks of wrestling history can be yours for just $5 per copy! Supplies are very limited—order today!**




Winter 1995

**MARCH 1990** A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1989—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '89 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1989, predictions for 1990, and more!

**MARCH 1991** A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1990—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '90 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1990, and predictions for 1991.

**MARCH 1992** A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1991—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '91 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1991, and predictions for 1992.

**AUGUST 1992** All slick, all color! This 88-page special includes extensive coverage of WrestleMania VIII, plus a bonus photo section detailing the career of Hulk Hogan in photos!

**MARCH 1993** A 100-page all-slick, all-color edition including: "1992—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '92 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1992, and predictions for 1993.

**JUNE 1994** This 88-page edition features a bonus section: Wrestling insiders answer 50 crucial questions in the 1994 *"PWI* Poll!" Plus: exclusive photos of Sting vs. Hogan!

**SEPTEMBER 1994** A spectacular 88-page celebration of 15 years of *PWI!* Included: The best and worst of the *PWI* years, major title changes of the *PWI* years, a year-by-year review—in color!—and much more!

**MARCH 1995** Our annual 100-page year-end extravaganza! Included: "1994—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '94 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1994, and predictions for 1995.

**JUNE 1995** This 88-page edition highlights the incisive *"PWI* Poll" for 1995 as wrestling insiders address 50 vital questions. Plus: Cactus Jack, Sting, the Steiners, and more!

**SEPTEMBER 1995** Our sensational 88-page WrestleMania XI issue features 20 pages of coverage of this historic card! Included: A full-color centerfold of Diesel—with a complete career bio!

**WINTER 1995** The one you've been waiting for: Our 88-page collector's edition featuring the fifth annual installment of the "*PWI* 500"—a comprehensive listing of the top 500 stars in the sport!

**MARCH 1996** The Big One! Our annual 100-page year-end spectacular! "1995—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '95 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards, and predictions for 1996!

**JUNE 1996** Our annual "*PWI* Poll" of insiders is back in this jam-packed 88-page edition! We ask 50 hot questions—they give you the answers! Plus: Sunny, Hulk Hogan, Yokozuna, and the WWF-WCW war!

## ONLY $5 EACH!

- ☐ *MARCH 1990*
- ☐ *MARCH 1991*
- ☐ *MARCH 1992*
- ☐ *AUGUST 1992*
- ☐ *MARCH 1993*
- ☐ *JUNE 1994*
- ☐ *SEPTEMBER 1994*
- ☐ *MARCH 1995*
- ☐ *JUNE 1995*
- ☐ *SEPTEMBER 1995*
- ☐ *WINTER 1995*
- ☐ *MARCH 1996*
- ☐ *JUNE 1996*

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every back issue to be delivered by ground and $2 for every back issue to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
**LONDON PUBLISHING CO.**
**P.O. BOX 956**
**FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034**

Please send me the special editions of **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED** I've checked.
I am enclosing $_____ as payment in full.
In case of sellout, indicate substitute choice:_____

**PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY**

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

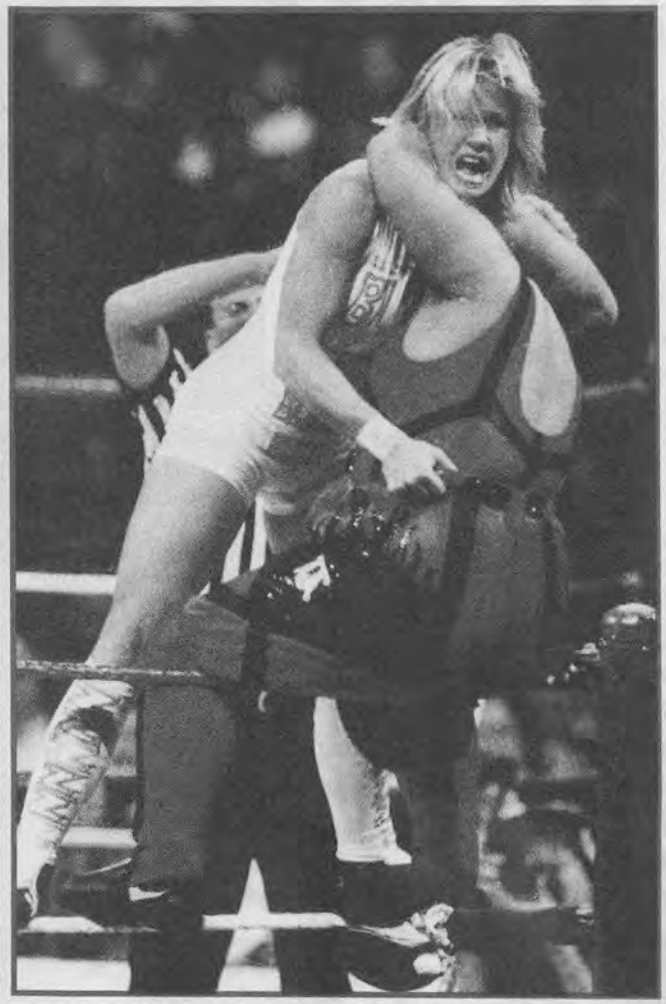
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

4244/03-96

# hokuto

(Continued from page 21)



**Hokuto felt good after she was handed the new WCW Women's belt (above left). But Madusa knows from her days in the WWF (above right) that it doesn't mean much to be champ if you don't get to defend your title against numerous formidable challengers.**

to bring back a women's division since I returned to WCW. But when I win it, I don't want to be on top of a mountain with only a few people coming after me."

For the past few years, women's wrestling has suffered from a lack of talent in the U.S. Certainly, there is no dearth of talent in Japan. In fact, many of the best U.S. women compete in Japan because they have given up hope that women's wrestling will ever be as big in the U.S. The record-shattering All-Japan Women's card, in November 1994 at the Tokyo Dome, lasted 10 hours and included 23 matches. On that card, Madusa lost the WWF World Women's title to Bull Nakano and EMLL champion Hakuto beat WWWA champion Aja Kong in the final round of the V-Top tournament of champions.

Women's wrestling *can* be as successful in the U.S., but not without commitment. With commitment comes legitimacy. A lot of people figured the WCW cruiserweight division wouldn't be taken seriously, but since the federation assembled a deep roster of talented stars from North America and abroad, fans have been raving about the matches they've seen. The same could be true for the women's division.

Fabulous Moolah knows what it's like to try to gain legitimacy as a Women's champion, let alone just a wrestler. Decades ago, she proved that women's wrestling can be just as exciting and dramatic as men's.

"You can't just expect the fans to watch and enjoy women's wrestling," said Moolah. "They have to be convinced that what they are seeing is just as good as the men and something that the promoters are taking seriously."

If WCW doesn't take the women's division seriously, Hokuto might as well throw that new gold belt of hers in the trash, because that's where it will belong. □

# YOU'RE NOT GETTING *ALL* THE NEWS IF YOU'RE NOT GETTING...

## PACKED WITH INFORMATION!

All the information you want is right here—each and every week! All the latest news and gossip! Comprehensive results from around the world! A calendar of upcoming events! Complete ratings! And feature stories that keep you on top of today's news *today*—with the authority and reliability only the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* team of reporters can provide!

## FIRST WITH THE NEWS!

Because *PWI Weekly* comes out *every* week, all the news is as fresh as can be! You'll be the *first* to know about the title changes, the big match signings, the major controversies, and the triumphs and tragedies throughout the *entire* wrestling world!

## STILL NOT SURE?

Want to try a sample issue of *PWI Weekly*? No problem! Just send us $1.95 and we'll send you a sample copy hot off the press! But be warned: Once you see all the news, results, and information packed into our newsletter, you'll be hooked! (Sorry, no credit cards accepted for single-issue orders.)

**WOW! SAVE UP TO 50%!**

PUBLISHER'S WARNING: Subscribing To *PWI Weekly* Now Greatly Increases Your Wrestling Knowledge.

**Send to:**
**London Publishing Co.**
**P.O. Box 910**
**Fort Washington, PA 19034**

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

**Please indicate method of payment:**

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA
☐ MasterCard
Card number: _____
Expiration date: ____/____
MO/YR

Signature_____

**YES!** I want to be the first with all the news! Please send me a subscription to *PWI Weekly* as follows:

☐ 17 issues for just $19.99, a 40% savings
☐ 34 issues for just $34.99, a 45% savings
☐ 52 issues for just $49.99, a 50% savings
☐ I'd like to see a sample copy before I subscribe. Enclosed please find a check or money order for $1.95

**NAME**_____

**ADDRESS**_____**APT**____

**CITY**_____**STATE**____**ZIP**_____

Offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign airmail orders: $2.65 for single issue; $32.74 for 17 issues; $60.49 for 34 issues; $88.99 for 52 issues. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow eight weeks for subscription to start.

4384/09-96

(Continued from page 34)

gives the federation a bad image when its top two wrestlers just keep criticizing each other. I wish they'd just get in the ring and settle their differences like men."

They will. There's a very good chance that Hart-Michaels will be 1997's Feud of the Year. We say that before they've wrestled even once in this calendar year. The stakes will be even higher if the WWF title is up for grabs in any or all of their battles. After all, few experts are predicting a long reign for "Psycho" Sid.

Without license to peer into the WWF's crystal ball, we must satisfy ourselves with the ongoing verbal battle between the two wrestlers. Sadly, like most politicians, both Hart and Michaels seem stuck repeating trite innuendo.

"What kind of athlete wiggles his butt and lowers his tights in the ring?" Hart mused. "Wrestling is about putting your butt on the line, not in some woman's line of vision. I have always put wrestling ahead of showmanship. Maybe I'm not as flashy as Shawn Michaels, but I am more respected. To me, earning the respect of the fans is more important than wearing a hollow belt around my waist."

"The only thing hollow is Bret Hart's head," retorted Michaels. "He always squawks about wanting to be respected. How respectable is it for him to constantly dig at me, accuse me of being a womanizer and someone not interested in doing what's good for the WWF? Well, Bret Hart, maybe I can't live up to your squeaky-clean image. I can only be who I am, honoring myself and my mentor, Jose Lothario, and *my* fans. If you or anyone else can't deal with that, too bad."

The name-calling hasn't gone unnoticed by other wrestlers.

**All that fans can hope for is that all the Shawn-Bret matches in '97 are as good as that WM XII showdown. They should be—both men are more determined than ever to beat each other.**

"They screw up in the ring, so they have to get attention by shooting off their mouths about what one of 'em did to mess up the other," said Steve Austin. "I don't give a damn what either one of them has to say."

The psychological warfare has done little to enhance each's popularity. Michaels almost seems to be a forgotten man, thanks in part to his forthrightness and devotion to Lothario. After Lothario was sidelined with a heart ailment, Michaels made a beeline to San Antonio to be by his mentor's side. While on a brief hiatus, he assailed the fans for questioning his loyalty to the 62-year-old icon.

"I have no time to listen to any fan who thinks I should put the belt and their needs before Jose," barked Michaels. "In this world, Jose and I come first. Everyone else waits in line."

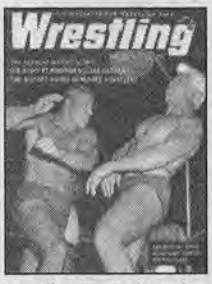
"That's the kind of conceded fool he really is," retorted Hart. "Yes, he rallies to Jose Lothario's aid, and that's admirable. Then he denounces his fans as if they were trivial. Shawn Michaels would be nowhere without the WWF and those fans. Now where is he?"

Where is Shawn? Where is Bret? If you're looking for them, simply tune in to *Monday Night Raw* or *WWF Superstars*. You'll likely find one of them vilifying the other. □

# COLLECTOR'S CORNER

**Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!**

## WRESTLING REVUE




Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler,* and *Inside Wrestling,* among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

**Fall 1961** Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **$25**
**December 1961** An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **$35**
**February 1962** Dick Beyer, Mitsu Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **$30**
**April 1962** Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Yulie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. **$30**
**June 1962** Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **$25**
**December 1963** The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **$35**
**February 1964** Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **$35**

## BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS

In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News,* an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring afficianados the world has ever known.

**May 1959** ***Boxing:*** Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. ***Wrestling:*** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. **$25**
**June 1959** ***Boxing:*** Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. ***Wrestling:*** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omaya Kato. **$35**
**September 1959** ***Boxing:*** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. ***Wrestling:*** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **$25**
**October 1962** ***Boxing:*** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! ***Wrestling:*** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **$30**
**October 1963** ***Boxing:*** Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. ***Wrestling:*** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **$25**
**February 1964** ***Boxing:*** Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. ***Wrestling:*** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **$30**

---

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

### WRESTLING REVUE

- ☐ Fall 1961
- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
- ☐ December 1963
- ☐ February 1964

### BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS

- ☐ May 1959
- ☐ June 1959
- ☐ September 1959
- ☐ October 1962
- ☐ October 1963
- ☐ February 1964

***MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:***

**LONDON PUBLISHING CO.**
**P.O. BOX 910**
**FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034**

Please send me the collector's editions I've checked. I am enclosing $_____ as payment in full or have provided my credit card number below. (Please refer to magazine descriptions for specific prices.) In the event any of my requested publications is sold out, I will accept the following magazine as a substitute:_____.

***PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY***

**NAME** _____

**ADDRESS** _____ **APT.** _____

**CITY** _____

**STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

*Please indicate method of payment:*

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

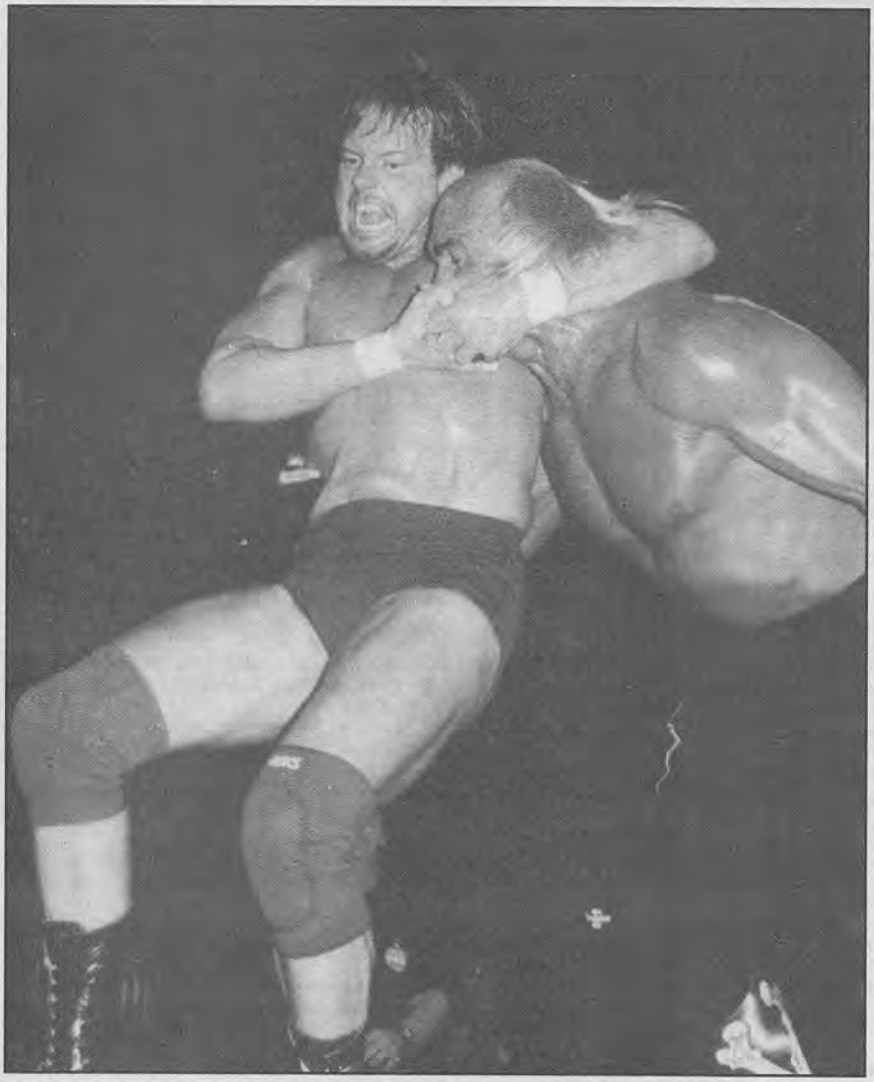
Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Signature:_____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every back issue to be delivered by ground and $2 for every back issue to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. All sales final. No exchanges will be made.

3850/06-95

(Continued from page 23)



Hogan probably wouldn't have to endure any more pain at the hands of Piper if he'd just admit Piper beat him fair and square at Starrcade. Hogan, however, has an odd take on what happened at that pay-per-view.

the WCW World title?

**PIPER: There was a time in my career when a big gold title belt meant the world to me. But I secured my place in history, and I'm happy with it. I don't need his belt. But if it helps me get to Hogan, then I'll be more than happy to take it away.**

**HUNTER:** What exactly happened when Eric Bischoff was allegedly trying to sign you to a WCW contract?

**PIPER: I don't know and, frankly, I don't care. Bischoff is a liar, an egomaniac, and a cheat. Like I said before, I never heard so many lies since I was telling them. He showed what he's all about by joining the NWO. The only use that I have for Bischoff is as a punching bag.**

**BROCK:** Maybe you could give him some pointers on being a wrestling executive.

**PIPER: That's not a bad idea. But he wouldn't want to attend my training seminars. He may not be able to walk out under his own power.**

**BROCK:** What did Bischoff say when you first approached him about confronting Hogan?

**PIPER: He seemed resistant to it at first, but then immediately came around and told me to go for it. I'll tell you something. I had my suspicions about this guy from the beginning. I knew there was something up with him.**

**ANDERSON:** What's your impression of The Giant? Now he seems to be on the same side of the fence that you're on regarding the NWO.

**PIPER: Make no mistake about it, The Giant is not my friend. And the side of the fence I'm on has only room for one, and that's me. He is a talented kid who let Hogan brainwash him. He was seduced by money and power. Hey, I never claimed to be an angel. But I don't need alliances to fight. I just need myself.**

**HUNTER:** So are you ruling out the possibility of joining forces in the future?

**PIPER: No. This is a crazy business. I'm a loner, but me and him against Hogan and anyone ... we could have some real fun there.**

**BROCK:** Some people inside WCW are still calling on you to be their leader. There doesn't seem to be anyone else who's willing to step up to the plate.

**PIPER: That's funny. Who would have thought? Ten years ago, I was the scourge of professional wrestling. I fought off violent fans, security guards, and entire police departments. The only leadership anyone wanted out of me was to lead my way out the door. But then again, 10 years ago, Hogan was a hero to millions. Now he's just a punk.**

**ANDERSON:** Were you surprised by what he did this past July?

**PIPER: Not really. Hogan has a tremendous ego. With a bunch of**

the fans starting to go against him, he didn't have much of a choice. The red and yellow were fadin' fast. Besides, he had the best teacher in the world showing him the ways of the rulebreakers.

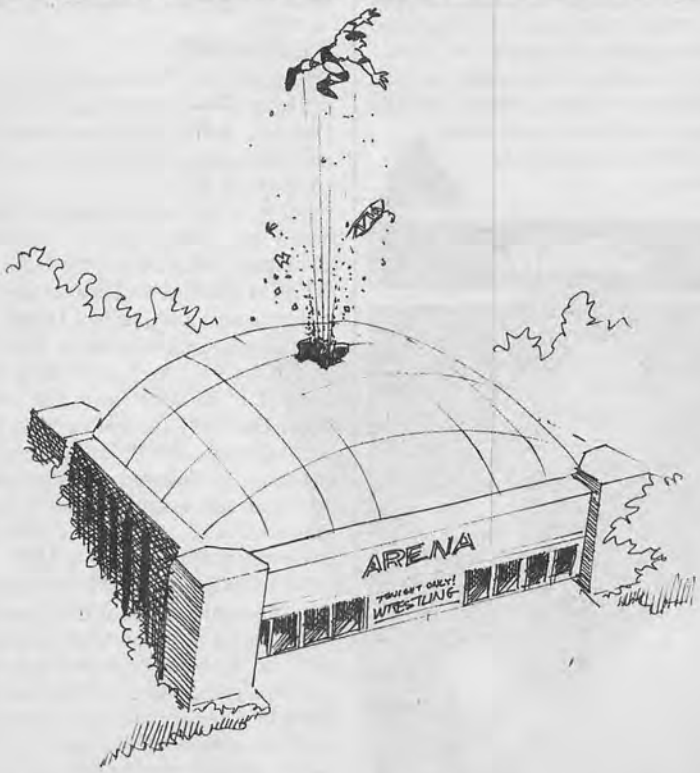
**HUNTER:** You?

**PIPER:** You betcha. I had more tricks up my sleeve than David Copperfield, man. I loved gettin' under his skin and showing him that I was just as big an icon and had just as big of a fan following as he did.

Piper's son Cody obviously doesn't like the NWO. Piper says it never occurred to him to join that group, not even *before* Halloween Havoc. He also has no intention of making any close friends in WCW.

**BROCK:** Here's another big question for you. When does Roddy Piper finally hang it up for good?

**PIPER:** I don't know. Every time I think I want to do it, someone comes after me. I don't think it's because I'm so popular with the other wrestlers. Soon, Matt, real soon. But I am not at peace right now. There may be miles to go before this Scotsman sleeps. □




*"Wow! He really got some height on that maneuver!"*


**Did you ever wonder how YOU could get into Pro Wrestling?**

**Maybe as a valet, manager or even a wrestler?**
Or in one of **MANY** non-wrestling positions?

**OR DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT "MORE" ABOUT WRESTLING?**

Now YOU can find out what you need to know to enter the exciting world of Pro Wrestling! This very insightful book is written by two active professionals in the wrestling business, who between them have worked for every major wrestling association including WCW and the WWF! You are advised what to do, where to write, how to act, how to get various jobs, what your chances are – and how to better those odds! Explains many "inside" things you never knew, but need to know!

• Details over 50 different jobs possible in pro wrestling!
• Lists addresses of U.S. promotions and best wrestling schools • Tells you where to order boots, tights, etc., in U.S. and U.K. • Charge it!

***New Chapter all about the NWO!***

***Inside Secrets on How YOU Can Enter The Exciting World of Pro Wrestling!***

**Price of book is only $15, including postage!**
Add $5 s/h outside U.S. - **Send Visa, MasterCard, Money Order or cash for quickest shipment!**

**PRO WRESTLING CAREER BOOK**
**2480-4 Briarcliff Rd, Ste. 256 • Atlanta, GA 30329**


# MOVING?

**Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice**

**Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:**

- ☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
- ☐ THE WRESTLER
- ☐ INSIDE WRESTLING
- ☐ WRESTLE AMERICA
- ☐ PWI WEEKLY

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

**CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:**
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

4223/03-96

# scouting report

**HOMETOWN:** Kona, HI
**HEIGHT:** 6'6"
**WEIGHT:** 322
**YEARS PRO:** 10
**RATING:** Unranked in 1996 "*PWI* 500"
**STRENGTHS:**
•Strength in numbers. Can always count on help from the Nation of Domination, and opponents know it.
•Heart punch. No one has done it better since the days of Stan Stasiak.
•Not proud. Will wrestle in smaller federations to in order to sample varied competition.
**WEAKNESSES:**
•Time restraints. Training time limited by the many hours of community service left to do as a result of 1995 legal problems.
•Forgetful. Why doesn't he use his martial arts skills anymore?
•Pacing problems. Seems content to wrestle a slow pace, and can't seem to shift into a higher gear.
**OTHER COMMENTS:** Now part of the NOD in the WWF with Faarooq, J.C. Ice, Wolfie D, and manager Clarence Mason ... Returned to the federation last year ... Was arrested on drugs and weapons charges in 1995 and subsequently sentenced to five years probation ... Was once part of the team Demolition in the WWF ... Former best friend of Randy Savage, Crush turned against him '93 and did well in head-to-head matches.
**OUTLOOK FOR 1997:** Crush doesn't seem all that comfortable in the Nation of Domination, so don't be surprised to see him split with the group in the coming months, probably amicably. He might be better off competing in tag teams for a while because he has looked overmatched at times against the likes of Ahmed Johnson and The Undertaker. He needs to do something to break out of the middle of the WWF pack.

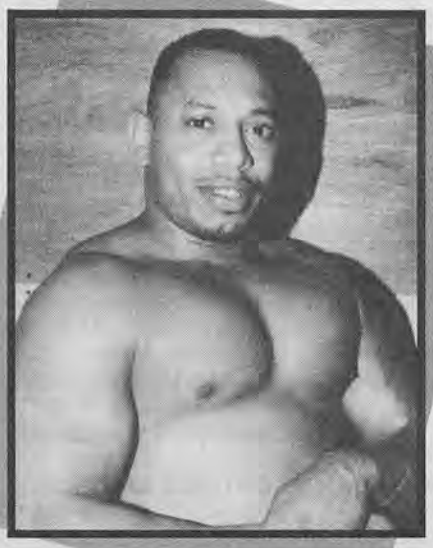
## CRUSH

## JUSHIN LIGER

**HOMETOWN:** Hiroshima, Japan
**HEIGHT:** 5'7"
**WEIGHT:** 219
**YEARS PRO:** 13
**RATING:** No. 38 (1996 "*PWI* 500")
**STRENGTHS:**
•Mentally strong. Having gone through that brain tumor ordeal, nothing that happens in the ring could possibly faze him.
•Diversified attack. Has worked hard to become a better mat wrestler.
•Calculated risk-taker. Isn't *too* reckless when he takes to the air, and he wastes little motion.
**WEAKNESSES:**
•Wear and tear. Thirteen years of high-flying have taken their toll on his body.
•Weight gain. Those few extra pounds make him powerful, but he'd better not put on many more.
•Nation's burden. Because of his great reputation, he feels like he's fighting for all of Japan when he's in the U.S.
**OTHER COMMENTS:** Got the year off to a good start when he beat Ultimo Dragon for eight different titles at the Tokyo Dome on January 4 ... Was involved in the first-ever *WCW Monday Nitro* match back on Labor Day 1995 (he lost to Brian Pillman) ... Multi-time IWGP junior heavyweight champion ... Suffered a broken ankle several years ago; it kept him out of action for many months ... Held the WCW light heavyweight title back in 1991-92.
**OUTLOOK FOR 1997:** Considering what his outlook was in the summer and fall of last year, it should be very good. He can't be realistically expected to hold on to those eight titles for the entire year. Some of the best athletes in the world have been gunning for those belts, and sooner or later he will lose them. Look for him to spend more and more time in WCW this year. He should continue to thrive in the cruiserweight division.

**HOMETOWN:** Denver, CO
**HEIGHT:** 5'11"
**WEIGHT:** 222
**YEARS PRO:** 10
**RATING:** No. 35 (1996 "*PWI* 500")
**STRENGTHS:**
•Enthusiasm. Genuinely loves wrestling, and he feeds off the energy of the crowd.
•Incredible balance. It helps him immensely with his aerial moves (and his dance steps!).
•Hometown. By training in Denver, where the air is thin, he has improved his stamina.
**WEAKNESSES:**
•No goals. Isn't involved in a feud or after any title, and he's at his best when he is.
•Fashion flop. New outfit looks nice, but tights and big boots restrict his movement.
•Strategy struggle. At the expense of a balanced attack, seems obsessed with showing off his aerial moves for his new WWF fans.
**OTHER COMMENTS:** As everyone knows, he's the former 2 Cold Scorpio ... Former WCW World tag team champion (with Marcus Bagwell) and former ECW TV champion ... Had a great rivalry with Sabu in ECW (he defeated him several times) ... Frequently competed in Japan before coming to the WWF ... Honed his skills as an aerialist in Mexico early in his career ... Big Van Vader, another Denver native, helped him break into the sport.
**OUTLOOK FOR 1997:** He can only beat opponents such as Salvatore Sincere and T.L. Hopper for so long. Soon he is going to have to decide exactly what he does want to accomplish in the WWF. We expect him to be among the top three contenders to the Intercontinental title by the end of the summer. He is arguably one of the top five or six all-around athletes in the WWF right now; this year could turn out to be his best ever in wrestling.

## FLASH FUNK



## LORD STEVEN REGAL

**HOMETOWN:** Blackpool, England
**HEIGHT:** 6'4"
**WEIGHT:** 247
**YEARS PRO:** 10
**RATING:** No. 56 (1996 "*PWI* 500")
**STRENGTHS:**
•Body language. Reacts so dramatically every time he's hit, it's tough to figure out if he's really in bad shape.
•Pacing, pacing, pacing. He's a master at slowing things down when he's in trouble.
•Legscissors. His lower body is so powerful that he can almost use this hold as a finisher.
**WEAKNESSES:**
•Attitude. Condescending nature and comments have made him an outcast even among rulebreakers.
•Upper body. Lack of power up top forces him to use repeated punches to even slightly injure his foes.
•Too content. He's a three-time WCW TV champ; shouldn't he start aiming higher?
**OTHER COMMENTS:** The reigning WCW TV champ ... Claims he is a descendant of British royalty ... Tried to turn Bobby Eaton into a "Blue Blood" (he rechristened him Earl Robert Eaton), but the two had a falling-out last year ... Said he had an obligation to win the TV title in 1993 (he defeated Rick Steamboat) so he could take the belt to the Queen ... Wrestled all over the world before coming to WCW ... WCW's most pompous star.
**OUTLOOK FOR 1997:** The third weakness says it all for Regal. He's essentially in the same spot in WCW now that he was in three years ago. He's a talented TV champion—probably the best mat wrestler in the federation—but few people look at him as a serious threat to either the WCW World or U.S. titles. That's too bad, because he should be. This year ought to be the year in which he decides it's time to really go for it.

**HOMETOWN:** Carteret, NJ
**HEIGHT:** 5'8"
**WEIGHT:** 226
**YEARS PRO:** 10
**RATING:** No. 69 (1996 "*PWI* 500")
**STRENGTHS:**
•Independence. He's truly on his own in ECW, and he seems very comfortable there.
•Meticulous. Is very careful to execute each move and hold correctly—and always puts everything he has into them.
•Top-rope fanatic. You don't want to be victimized by his "Frankensteiner" from there, or his superplex.
**WEAKNESSES:**
•Lacks resilience. One *very* good punch is sometimes enough to take him down.
•Easily rattled. Fans' chants affect his concentration.
•Pain in the neck. Still worries about the injury he suffered in the WWF.
**OTHER COMMENTS:** Now part of the "Triple Threat" in ECW with pals Brian Lee and Shane Douglas ... Former Smoky Mountain Wrestling tag team champion with Lee ... He and Tammy Fytch joined the WWF in 1995 as The Bodydonnas, Skip and Sunny ... With new Bodydonna Zip, won the WWF World tag team title by beating Henry and Phineas Godwinn at WrestleMania XII.
**OUTLOOK FOR 1997:** We predict some very good things for Candido in the next year. His high-risk style is much better suited to ECW than the WWF. With Lee and Douglas on his side, he has an excellent chance of capturing a title there. He has already looked very good in bouts with Louie Spicolli, Mikey Whipwreck and Rob Van Dam. And when he's not busy with ECW commitments, he'll probably start competing in Japan again, too.

## CHRIS CANDIDO

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED®

## PWI's Top 10

### TOP 10

**1 SHAWN MICHAELS**
*234, San Antonio, TX*
**(5) WWF World champion**

**2 THE GIANT**
*430, parts unknown*
**(-) No. 2 contender: WCW World title**

**3 STEVE AUSTIN**
*241, Dallas, TX*
**(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title**

**4 SID VICIOUS**
*318, West Memphis, AR*
**(1) No. 2 contender: WWF World title**

**5 EDDY GUERRERO**
*221, El Paso, TX*
**(3) U.S. heavyweight champion**

**6 BRET HART**
*235, Calgary, Alberta*
**(9) No. 4 contender: WWF World title**

**7 LEX LUGER**
*265, Chicago, IL*
**(4) No. 3 contender: WCW World title**

**8 HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**
*279, Greenwich, CT*
**(7) WWF Intercontinental champion**

**9 DEAN MALENKO**
*216, Tampa, FL*
**(-) WCW cruiserweight champion**

**10 RAVEN**
*235, Short Hills, NJ*
**(-) ECW heavyweight champion**

*Raven*

### TAG TEAMS

**1 OWEN HART & DAVEY BOY SMITH**
*Combined weight: 472 pounds*
**(2) WWF World tag team champions**

**2 SCOTT HALL & KEVIN NASH**
*Combined weight: 646 pounds*
**(1) WCW World tag team champions**

**3 DOUG FURNAS & PHIL LAFON**
*Combined weight: 475 pounds*
**(4) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title**

**4 HARLEM HEAT**
*Combined weight: 550 pounds*
**(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title**

**5 RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
*Combined weight: 483 pounds*
**(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title**

**6 THE ELIMINATORS**
*Combined weight: 459 pounds*
**(5) ECW tag team champions**

**7 HENRY & PHINEAS GODWINN**
*Combined weight: 531 pounds*
**(7) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title**

**8 THE BARBARIAN & MENG**
*Combined weight: 589 pounds*
**(3) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title**

**9 THE NASTY BOYS**
*Combined weight: 585 pounds*
**(6) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title**

**10 NEW DIESEL & NEW RAZOR RAMON**
*Combined weight: 646 pounds*
**(8) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title**

### WCW

***World Champion:***
**HULK HOGAN**
*(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA*

**1—EDDY GUERRERO**
*(1) 221, El Paso, TX*
**2—THE GIANT**
*(7) 430, parts unknown*
**3—LEX LUGER**
*(3) 265, Chicago, IL*
**4—DEAN MALENKO**
*(8) 216, Tampa, FL*
**5—LORD STEVEN REGAL**
*(-) 247, Blackpool, England*
**6—SIX**
*(-) 212, Minneapolis, MN*
**7—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE**
*(5) 260, Tampa, FL*
**8—JEFF JARRETT**
*(6) 230, Nashville, TN*
**9—CHRIS BENOIT**
*(-) 218, Edmonton, Alberta*
**10—KONNAN**
*(-) 237, Mexico City, Mexico*

### WWF

***World Champion:***
**SHAWN MICHAELS**
*(-) 234, San Antonio, TX*

**1—HUNTER HELMSLEY**
*(1) 279, Greenwich, CT*
**2—SID VICIOUS**
*(C) 318, West Memphis, AR*
**3—STEVE AUSTIN**
*(5) 241, Dallas, TX*
**4—BRET HART**
*(6) 235, Calgary, Alberta*
**5—BIG VAN VADER**
*(-) 450, Denver, CO*
**6—GOLDUST**
*(7) 254, Austin, TX*
**7—AHMED JOHNSON**
*(9) 255, Pearl River, MS*
**8—THE UNDERTAKER**
*(4) 328, parts unknown*
**9—FAAROOQ**
*(8) 260, Perry, GA*
**10—MANKIND**
*(3) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM*

### USWA

***USWA Champion:***
**JERRY LAWLER**
*(C) 234, Memphis, TN*

**1—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**
*(2) 230, Memphis, TN*
**2—DUTCH MANTEL**
*(-) 224, Oil Trough, TX*
**3—WOLFIE D**
*(1) 250, parts unknown*
**4—BILL DUNDEE**
*(5) 219, Melbourne, Australia*
**5—J.C. ICE**
*(4) 221, Memphis, TN*
**6—TRACEY SMOTHERS**
*(-) 227, Atlanta, GA*
**7—MABEL**
*(7) 568, Harlem, NY*
**8—KAREEM OLAJUWON**
*(6) 215, Memphis, TN*
**9—MO**
*(8) 285, Harlem, NY*
**10—BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
*(9) 227, Tampa, FL*

### ECW

***ECW Champion:***
**RAVEN**
*(C) 235, Short Hills, NJ*

**1—THE SANDMAN**
*(2) 244, Philadelphia, PA*
**2—SHANE DOUGLAS**
*(1) 240, Pittsburgh, PA*
**3—TOMMY DREAMER**
*(5) 245, Yonkers, NY*
**4—PIT BULL II**
*(3) 231, Philadelphia, PA*
**5—BRIAN LEE**
*(9) 251, Los Angeles, CA*
**6—CHRIS CANDIDO**
*(7) 226, Carteret, NJ*
**7—AXL ROTTEN**
*(-) 302, Philadelphia, PA*
**8—MIKEY WHIPWRECK**
*(-) 187, New York, NY*
**9—STEVIE RICHARDS**
*(-) 227, Philadelphia, PA*
**10—LOUIE SPICOLLI**
*(10) 248, Los Angeles, CA*

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

*Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.*

## MOST POPULAR

1. **THE GIANT**
   *430, parts unknown*
   **Last issue: unrated**
2. **AHMED JOHNSON**
   *255, Pearl River, MS*
   **Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular**
3. **RODDY PIPER**
   *247, Glasgow, Scotland*
   **Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular**
4. **LEX LUGER**
   *265, Chicago, IL*
   **Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular**
5. **SHAWN MICHAELS**
   *234, San Antonio, TX*
   **Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular**
6. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   *328, parts unknown*
   **Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular**
7. **BRET HART**
   *235, Calgary, Alberta*
   **Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular**
8. **EDDY GUERRERO**
   *221, El Paso, TX*
   **Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular**
9. **GOLDUST**
   *254, Austin, TX*
   **Last issue: unrated**
10. **DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE**
    *260, Tampa, FL*
    **Last issue: unrated**

## MOST HATED

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   *275, Venice Beach, CA*
   **Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated**
2. **STEVE AUSTIN**
   *241, Dallas, TX*
   **Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated**
3. **SCOTT HALL**
   *290, Miami, FL*
   **Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated**
4. **HUNTER HELMSLEY**
   *279, Greenwich, CT*
   **Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated**
5. **KEVIN NASH**
   *356, Detroit, MI*
   **Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated**
6. **KEVIN SULLIVAN**
   *252, Boston, MA*
   **Last issue: unrated**
7. **FAAROOQ**
   *260, Perry, GA*
   **Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated**
8. **SIX**
   *212, Minneapolis, MN*
   **Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated**
9. **JERRY LAWLER**
   *234, Memphis, TN*
   **Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated**
10. **STEVE MCMICHAEL**
    *270, Austin, TX*
    **Last issue: unrated**

**For period ended January 22, 1997**

## CUMULATIVE RATINGS

*These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.*

### SINGLES

1—SHAWN MICHAELS ..... 93 points
2—THE GIANT ..... 64 points
3—LEX LUGER ..... 46 points
4—STING ..... 41 points
5—SID VICIOUS ..... 37 points

### TAG TEAMS

1—HARLEM HEAT ..... 61 points
2—OWEN HART & DAVEY BOY SMITH ..... 56 points
3—SCOTT HALL & KEVIN NASH ..... 55 points
4—HENRY & PHINEAS GODWINN ..... 53 points
5—RICK & SCOTT STEINER ..... 44 points

## NEW JAPAN

***IWGP Champion:***
**SHINYA HASHIMOTO**
*(C) 287, Gisu, Japan*

**1—JUSHIN LIGER**
*(3) 206, Hiroshima, Japan*
**2—ULTIMO DRAGON**
*(1) 175, Mexico City, Mexico*
**3—THE GREAT MUTA**
*(2) 245, Tokyo, Japan*
**4—ANTONIO INOKI**
*(-) 240, Tokyo, Japan*
**5—SHINJIRO OTANI**
*(10) 215, Yokohama, Japan*
**6—MASA CHONO**
*(5) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
**7—HAKUSHI**
*(-) 231, Tokyo, Japan*
**8—SUPER LIGER**
*(-) 220, Tokyo, Japan*
**9—RIKI CHOSHU**
*(4) 246, Yamaguchi, Japan*
**10—HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
*(7) 270, Tokyo, Japan*

## ALL-JAPAN

***Triple Crown Champion:***
**MITSUHARU MISAWA**
*(2) 228, Saitama, Japan*

**1—KENTA KOBASHI**
*(C) 261, Tokyo, Japan*
**2—YOSHINARI OGAWA**
*(-) 202, Fichigi, Japan*
**3—AKIRA TAUE**
*(1) 265, Tokyo, Japan*
**4—JUN AKIYAMA**
*(4) 230, Hiroshima, Japan*
**5—TOSHIAKI KAWADA**
*(3) 245, Tizhigi, Japan*
**6—SABU**
*(6) 220, Bombay*
**7—TAKAO OMORI**
*(7) 221, Tokyo, Japan*
**8—STAN HANSEN**
*(10) 322, Borger, TX*
**9—STEVE WILLIAMS**
*(8) 265, Norman, OK*
**10—ROB VAN DAM**
*(9) 227, Battle Creek, MI*

**CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE: CWA Champion**—Kevin Sullivan; **1**—Tony Rumble; **2**—King Kong Bundy; **3**—Tony Atlas; **4**—Vic Steamboat; **5**—Doink the Clown; **6**—Salvatore Sincere; **7**—Knuckles Nelson; **8**—Steve Corino; **9**—Mohammed Hussein; **10**—Pink Assassin.

**HARDCORE CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: HCW Champion**—Larry Valentine; **1**—Ben Jordan; **2**—Prozac Jac; **3**—Mr. Hardcore; **4**—Quinton Querisma; **5**—Troy Eaton; **6**—Gary Valiant; **7**—Tracey Smothers; **8**—Hot Rod Biggs; **9**—Steven Dunn; **10**—Sheik.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: PCW Champion**—Freight Train Jones; **1**—Pat Shamrock; **2**—Mark Mest; **3**—Lance Diamond; **4**—Cheetah Master; **5**—Troy Mest; **6**—Boogie Woogie Brown; **7**—Maxx Crimson; **8**—Ace Darling; **9**—The Cremator; **10**—Ray Odyssey.

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION: PWF Champion**—Italian Stallion; **1**—George South; **2**—Madd Maxxine; **3**—Flaming Youth; **4**—Terry Austin; **5**—Carolina Dreamer; **6**—Star Ryder; **7**—Cruel Connection II; **8**—Chris Hamrick; **9**—Masked Maniac; **10**—Gladiator II.

**UNITED STATES WRESTLING FEDERATION: USWF Champion**—King Kaluha; **1**—Frank Stalletto; **2**—Salvatore Sincere; **3**—Libyan Terrorist II; **4**—Steve Corino; **5**—Jimmy Snuka; **6**—Mike Stark; **7**—Chip Stetson; **8**—L.A. Gore; **9**—Doink; **10**—Lord Zoltan.

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

***What's going on?*** Last spring, we considered **Goldust** a virtual lock to win the Most Hated Wrestler of the Year Award for 1996 in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. If not for **Hulk Hogan's** shocking rulebreaking turn on July 7 of last year, he probably would have won it. Nevertheless, he finished second by a wide margin.

Goldust

Now that **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** has made a play for Goldust's "director," **Marlena**, and 'Dust has been so quick to defend her honor, a lot of people are reacting ... well ... very positively to what Goldust does. It's true—they cheered him in his battles with both Helmsley and **Steve Austin**.

Does this make him—*gulp*—a full-fledged fan favorite? At first we didn't think so, but more and more people are getting behind the man we used to know as **Dustin Rhodes**. As our story on page 24 says, he's finally fighting like a Rhodes again. He even helped out **Ahmed Johnson**, one of his old nemeses, when Johnson was getting attacked by the **Nation of Domination**.

We asked Goldust if he considered himself a fan favorite now, and he said he wasn't concerned with how the fans responded to him. All he wanted them to know was that they were going to be seeing a much tougher version of Goldust in the months to come. Sorry, it looks to us like Goldust is enjoying hearing these cheers. He's not insulting people or trying to offend them any longer. For the first time ever, we're putting him in our Most Popular ratings.

We might have to soon do the same with **Davey Boy Smith**. He may or may not return to the ranks of WWF fan favorites soon, but just because he stood up for **Bret Hart** against Austin a few times does not make him a fan favorite. As of this writing, he was still teaming with Bret's rulebreaking brother (and his own brother-in-law) **Owen**, and he was proud of it.

***The NWO gets larger, then smaller.*** A few months ago, we were, quite frankly, surprised to see **The Giant** join the **New World Order**. We thought that adding him to an organization that already had **Hulk Hogan**, **Scott Hall**, and **Kevin Nash**, three men with very large egos, was a mistake. Although we couldn't blame the NWO for wooing him away from WCW, we didn't think he'd fit. We thought he still secretly wanted another shot at *beating* Hogan. Turns out he did, and he's back to the WCW side.

We were also stunned to see **Marcus Bagwell**, **M. Wall Street**, **Big Bubba Rogers**, **Scott Norton**, and **Masa Chono** enter the NWO fold in November and December. Though all of them are certainly capable competitors, they had all been struggling of late (excluding, of course, Chono, who was doing well for himself in the Orient).

Bagwell had been making the tag team ratings fairly often with partner **Scotty Riggs**, but Bubba and Wall Street were having a hard time cracking the ratings. Perhaps that's one reason they jumped over to the NWO—they needed a change. But we wonder if adding these men was a good move for the NWO.

Dallas Page

It looks to us like the group might be starting to weaken. The Giant is out, and he's now in our Most Popular rankings, since fans love him. And **"Diamond" Dallas Page** blatantly turned down an invitation to join the group a few months after he admitted he had interest in joining. He used a "Diamond cutter" on Hall just seconds after Hall presented him with an NWO T-shirt in January.

Did you notice the reaction to what Page did to Hall that night on *Nitro*? The fans loved it. And Page high-fived a lot of people as he left through the crowd. He belongs in our Most Popular rankings as well!

The bottom line about the NWO might be this: The organization will likely help some of its new recruits get better matches, but their presence won't necessarily make the group *stronger* in any way. More isn't always better. In this issue, not a single one of the new "recruits" appears in the WCW ratings. But both The Giant and DDP are heading toward the top.

***That's all for now!*** If you have any thoughts on Goldust, the comings and goings in the NWO, or anything at all relating to our ratings, we want to hear what you have to say. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

# BACK ISSUES OF

**Complete your collection of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. Don't miss out on the excellence that has made PWI the leader in wrestling journalism! Each issue contains a giant FULL-COLOR poster of one of your favorite wrestling stars, plus, beginning with the September 1990 issue, PWI is packed with color in every issue! Quantities are limited, so order today!**
***[NOTE: Cover stories noted in boldface.]***

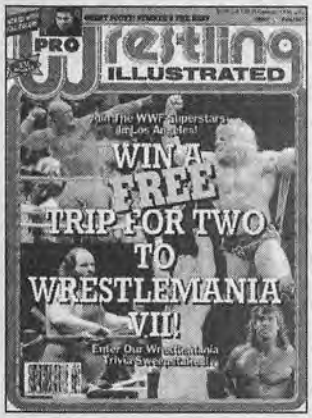
**February 1988**/CENTERFOLD: Ronnie Garvin. **Savage & Elizabeth,** Garvin, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

**April 1989**/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steiner. **Randy Savage,** Ted Turner, Richter, Paul E., Powers of Pain.

**December 1990**/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **New WWF Blood,** Four Horsemen, Kerry, Doom, Gilbert, Slaughter.

**January 1991**/CENTERFOLD: Kerry Von Erich. **WWF vs. NWA,** Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri & Warrior.

**February 1991**/CENTERFOLD: 1991 calendar. **WrestleMania,** Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Steiner, Power & Glory.




**May 1991**/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hulk Hogan,** Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

**June 1991**/CENTERFOLD: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** Cactus, Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiner.

**January 1993**/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam,** Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

**February 1993**/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. **Ramon,** Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

**April 1993**/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. **Steiners,** Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.

**November 1993**/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report,** Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.

**January 1994**/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink,** Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.

**May 1994**/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger**, Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.

**July 1994**/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon**, Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.

**August 1994**/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. **Bret Hart/WrestleMania X,** Steiners, Albano, steroid trial.

**November 1994**/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan In WCW,** Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

**Winter 1994**/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. **Hulkamania Wild Again,** McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.

**January 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Tatanka,** Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.

**February 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Johnny B. Badd. **WCW Civil War,** Pillman & Austin, Abdullah, Bret Hart.

**April 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Sabu. **WWF Title Turmoil,** Hogan, Cornette, Diesel, Alundra, Rhodes.

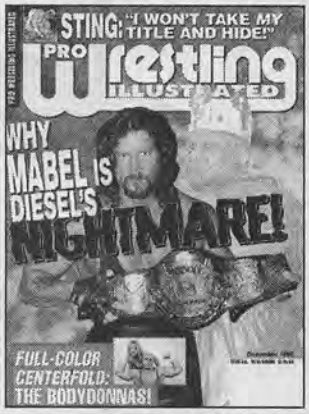
**May 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Diesel,** Savage, Sabu, Hogan-Beefcake, Vader, Owen Hart.

**July 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Bam Bam Bigelow. **Hulk Hogan,** Sullivan, USWA blood, Yokozuna, revitalize the WWF.

**August 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **Women In Wrestling,** Rottens, Sting-Hogan, Road Warriors.

**October 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Harlem Heat. **Razor Ramon,** ideal WWF champ, Flair, Savage, Orndorff.

**November 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Hulk Hogan. **Summerslam,** Vader, Michaels, Backlund, North Korea, ECW rules.




**December 1995**/CENTERFOLD: Bodydonnas. **Diesel-Mabel,** Sting, Yokozuna, Savio, Regal-Eaton, Lawler-LeDuc.

**January 1996**/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **WWF vs. WCW,** Diesel & Shawn, Luger, Summerslam.

**February 1996**/CENTERFOLD: Shawn Michaels. **Randy Savage,** Hogan, Gangstas-Public Enemy, Austin.

## PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ FEB 88 | ☐ JAN 94 | ☐ AUG 95 |
| ☐ APR 89 | ☐ MAY 94 | ☐ OCT 95 |
| ☐ DEC 90 | ☐ JULY 94 | ☐ NOV 95 |
| ☐ JAN 91 | ☐ AUG 94 | ☐ DEC 95 |
| ☐ FEB 91 | ☐ NOV 94 | ☐ JAN 96 |
| ☐ MAY 91 | ☐ WINT 94 | ☐ FEB 96 |
| ☐ JUNE 91 | ☐ JAN 95 | |
| ☐ JAN 93 | ☐ FEB 95 | |
| ☐ FEB 93 | ☐ APR 95 | |
| ☐ APR 93 | ☐ MAY 95 | |
| ☐ NOV 93 | ☐ JULY 95 | |

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
**LONDON PUBLISHING CO.**
**BOX 910**
**FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034**

**ONLY $3 EACH**

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. International money order in U.S. funds only.

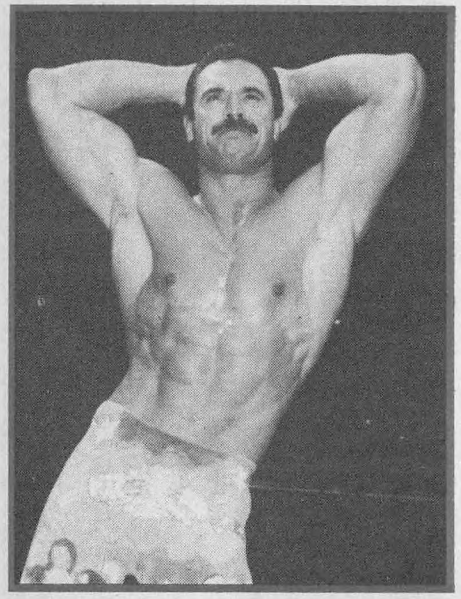
***Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery***

4321/06/96

VOLUME XVIII, No. 5

MAY 1997

WRESTLING ENQUIRER



This is how Rick Rude looked when we last saw him competing in the ring. All indications are that a masked man who appeared in ECW in January was him.

# RICK RUDE ARRIVES IN ECW—OR DOES HE?

## Masked Man Shows Up To Hassle Douglas

By DAVE LENKER

PHILADELPHIA—Fans who attended the January 11 ECW card were not asking, "Who is that masked man?" when a man clad in a flannel shirt, jeans, cowboy boots, and black and silver mask came to the ring to confront "The Franchise" Shane Douglas.

They were absolutely convinced it was Rick Rude. If it is, he did a poor job concealing his identity. When he got to the ring, he grabbed a microphone and shouted, "Cut the music!" which is something Rude used to do all the time.

He then talked about how he chased a certain blond NWA champ around for years. Rude, of course, had a long rivalry with Ric Flair, a former NWA World champion. By this time, fans were chanting "Rick Rude! Rick Rude!"

What was confusing about the man's impromptu speech was his mention of wanting to get even with Douglas, with whom he never had a major feud.

The masked man also brought out Pit Bull I, whose career was nearly ended by a vicious Douglas DDT in July, as a surprise opponent for "The Franchise." Pit Bull got the best of Douglas and Brian Lee and Chris Candido, both of whom came to the ring to help him. The masked man did not talk to the press after the card.

Reached a day later at his home in Florida, Rude said, "Maybe it was a Rick Rude impersonator ... I'm flattered." Rude has not wrestled since the spring of 1994, when he suffered a back injury. He claims he has no plans to return to active competition.

# Mero & Sable On Verge Of Split?

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

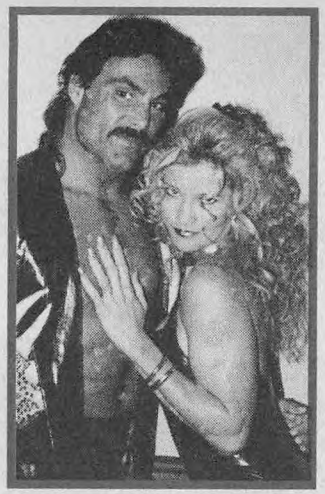
NEW YORK—Once considered the classiest couple in the WWF, "Wildman" Marc Mero and Sable appeared to be close to splitting up after Mero blamed his lovely valet for a loss to The New Diesel on *Shotgun Saturday Night* in January.

Mero was ready to pin his foe when The Honky Tonk Man came out to harass Sable. When Mero intervened, Diesel hit him in the back, rolled him back into the ring, and "jack-knifed" him for the win. Mero then yelled at Sable and left her in the ring crying. When Rocky Maivia tried to comfort Sable, Mero returned and got into a fight with him.

"I could see this coming," said one WWF wrestler. "Mero's had a hard time in recent matches with Hunter Hearst Helmsley, and Sable's the reason he started feuding with him Helmsley in the first place. He's taking his frustration out on her."

Neither Mero nor Sable would comment on the situation.

Mero, of course, started his career as the *rulebreaking* Johnny B. Badd in WCW. Many insiders predict he'll soon go that route again.



These aren't the best times for Marc Mero and his valet, Sable.

# Page Now An NWO Target

By STEVE ANDERSON

NEW ORLEANS—A few months ago, Dallas Page expressed interest in joining the NWO, but he was upset he was not asked to join as soon as the group was formed. Kevin Nash, Scott Hall, and Six then thought they convinced him it was better to be with the NWO than against it when their interference caused him to lose to Eddy Guerrero in the finals of the U.S title tourney at Starrcade.

That's why Hall and Nash expected a mini-celebration when they presented "Diamond" Dallas with an NWO T-shirt during the January 13 *Nitro*. Page accepted it, hugged Hall, then used a "Diamond cutter" on him when he turned his back. He left ringside through the crowd.

"Humiliating the NWO like that is the biggest mistake a man can make," said Ted DiBiase. "He might as well walk around with a target on his back now, because we *will* get him. He's a top priority. Page better look over his shoulder wherever he goes."

"DDP fears no one," Page said. "I let them know what I think of the NWO. They can come after me all they want, because I'll be ready."

# Smothers, Mo Join USWA's NOD

By LIZ HUNTER

MEMPHIS, TN—The USWA branch of the Nation of Domination continued to expand in January when both Mo and Tracey Smothers joined the group. Like most others who have joined, they have changed their names. Mo is now Sir Mohammed, while Smothers is Shaquille Ali.

The USWA's NOD now consists of Mo, Smothers, Akeem Muhammad, J.C. Ice, Wolfie D, Queen Moesha (Miss Texas). Kareem Olajuwon (Reggie B. Fine), and Randy X (Randy Hales). Ice, who began feuding with Bill Dundee, his father, when Dundee refused to join the group, say they're still looking to expand further.

"These men are smart," he said. "They know the Nation is the future of wrestling. Faarooq told us he's happy with our recruiting efforts down here."

Among those fighting against the NOD is Mabel, the former tag team partner of Mo—*er*, Sir Mohammed.

"I don't know where Mo's head is at," he said. "He's not gonna be with the NOD long, because I'll see to it that the NOD doesn't last long."

## AROUND THE GLOBE

### TOKYO, JAPAN

Antonio Inoki is still going strong. The legendary New Japan star picked up another impressive win on January 4 at the Tokyo Dome, defeating martial arts expert Willie Williams. Now Inoki, who was instrumental in organizing last year's World Wrestling Peace Festival in Los Angeles, is reportedly talking to officials in Cuba about running a big card there in '97.

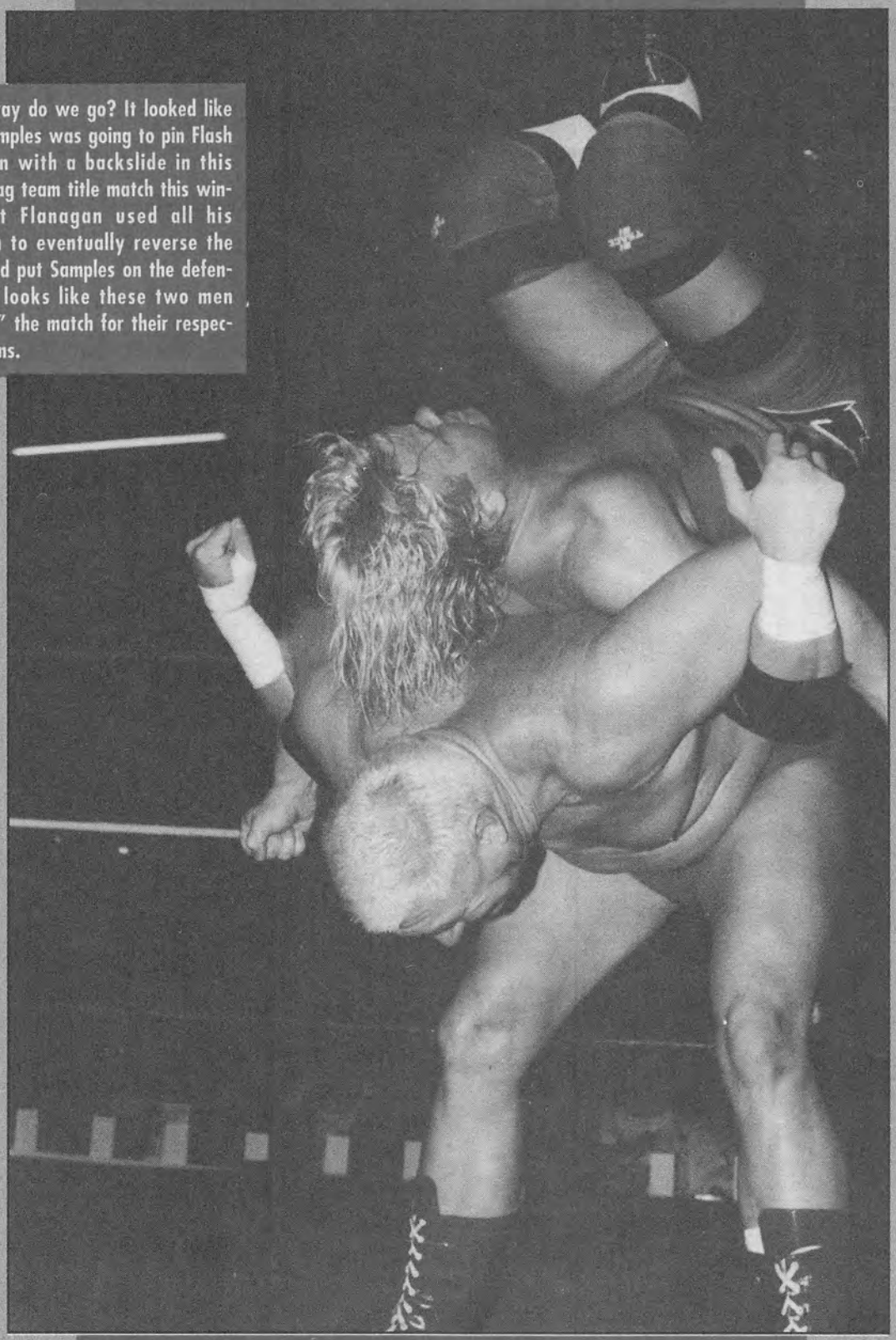
### CAGUAS, PUERTO RICO

When their schedules have allowed it, many WWF stars have been traveling to Puerto Rico to compete in the WWA. And they're doing well. Savio Vega holds the federation's heavyweight title, and until late-December, Jake Roberts was the WWA Puerto Rico champion. "Psycho" Sid and Hunter Hearst Helmsley also defended their respective WWF titles there recently.

### OSAKA, JAPAN

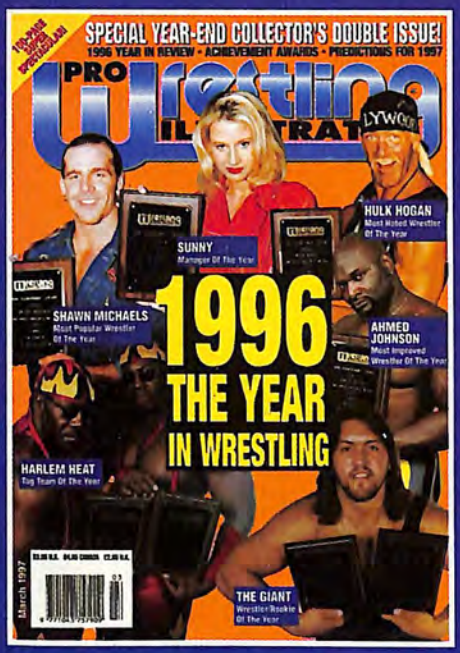
Madusa plans to make many trips to Japan this year if that's what it takes for her to win the WCW World Women's championship from Akira Hokuto, the woman who beat her for the belt in a tournament final at Starrcade. She had better watch out for Bull Nakano, her old rival, when she's there. Nakano has said she wants more matches with Madusa whether she's champion or not.

# HOT SHOT

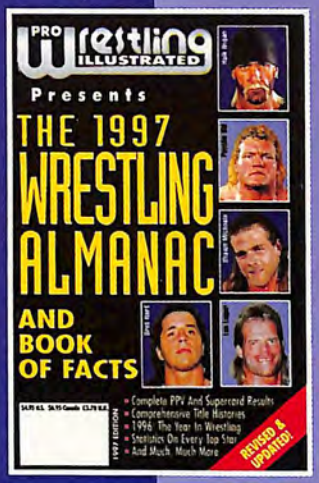


Which way do we go? It looked like Mike Samples was going to pin Flash Flanagan with a backslide in this USWA tag team title match this winter, but Flanagan used all his strength to eventually reverse the move and put Samples on the defensive. It looks like these two men "carried" the match for their respective teams.

Photo by Bill Apter




# GET THE PWI ALMANAC FREE WITH YOUR PAID SUBSCRIPTION!




Wrestling fans raved about last year's *PWI Almanac And Book Of Facts*. And now the second edition has been published, completely revised and updated. The editors of *PWI* have put together the ultimate resource tool, combining a complete review of 1996 with a historical overview of the sport. The 196-page, digest-sized edition includes: Complete PPV, supercard, and Clash results ... Complete title histories ... A year-by-year history of the sport ... Stats ... And much more!

***The PWI Almanac*** sold out quickly on most newsstands last year, but now the second edition is yours **FREE** if you use the order form below!

## Subscribe to PWI today and receive ...

- 13 issues a year (that's one every four weeks!)
- Up to **25% off** the newsstand price
- Four special **expanded editions,** including the 100-page "Year-End Achievement Awards" and the "*PWI* 500"
- Guaranteed **delivery** right to your home
- And, of course, *The 1997 PWI Almanac And Book Of Facts*

## EXCLUSIVE *PWI* FEATURES

**PWI's** award-winning staff is always where the action is, providing the most complete coverage of wrestling available anywhere. From the great staff of writers, through the dramatic peak-action photographs, to the magnificent full-color centerfold—**PWI** brings you wrestling action at its best. **PWI** includes exclusive features you can't get anywhere else: Our comprehensive "Arena Reports" ... Brandi Mankiewicz' lively and controversial "Off The Top Rope" . . . An incisive "Press Conference" with one of the sport's top stars . . . Extensive "Ratings" . . . "Scouting Reports" . . . "Time Capsules" . . . And don't forget: Your subscription to **PWI** includes the spectacular 100-page year-end issue, priced at $3.95 on the newsstand (if you can find it!) and every other special we produce throughout the year.

## SAVE UP TO 25%!!
### *(Please check one)*

- ☑ Yes, I would like to subscribe to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
- ☐ I am enclosing $32.80 for a 13-issue subscription—a 20% savings off the newsstand price!
- ☐ I am enclosing $61.50 for a 26-issue subscription—a full 25% savings off the newsstand rate!
- ☐ I wish to receive the *1997 PWI Wrestling Almanac* as a bonus to my subscription and have enclosed $2 to cover postage and handling
- ☐ I would like to order the *1997 PWI Almanac* only and have enclosed $7 as payment in full

Please indicate method of payment:

- ☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
- ☐ VISA # _____
- ☐ MasterCard # _____
  Expiration Date: __/__
  MO/YR

Signature: _____

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Price offer good in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $43.20 for 13 issues ($65.30 airmail); $82.30 for 26 issues ($126.50 airmail). International money order in U.S. funds only for orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

4428/01-97

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

UPDATED EVERY WEEKDAY AND AFTER PAY-PER-VIEW EVENTS

# HOTLINE

When it comes to wrestling, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine has all the inside information you want and it's only a phone call away.

If it happens in the ring, the locker room, or on the road, you'll hear it here first.

To get all the breaking stories from every federation, call the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Hotline now and you'll be the first to learn about ...

**Exclusive news from behind the scenes**
**Upcoming events**
**Up-to-date results from around the world**
**Title changes and transactions**
**Pay-per-view reports**
**Wrestler of the week**
**Plus . . .** Tell the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* what you want to see in the magazine. Dictate a letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Selected letters will be printed in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

## CALL NOW

**IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI**
**IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101**
**IN THE U.K., 0891 299 712**

☎ This service is available on both touch-tone and rotary-dial phones.

*Cost per minute in the United States and Canada is $1.99 per. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is 39p cheap rate and 49p at all other times, incl. VAT.

Kids, get your parents' permission.

BCM Box 6424, London WC1N 3XX

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI
IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101
IN THE UK, 0891 299 712

4112/08-95